



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

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Winter 2015

THE TOP TEN RIVER STEWARDSHIP ISSUES OF 2015!

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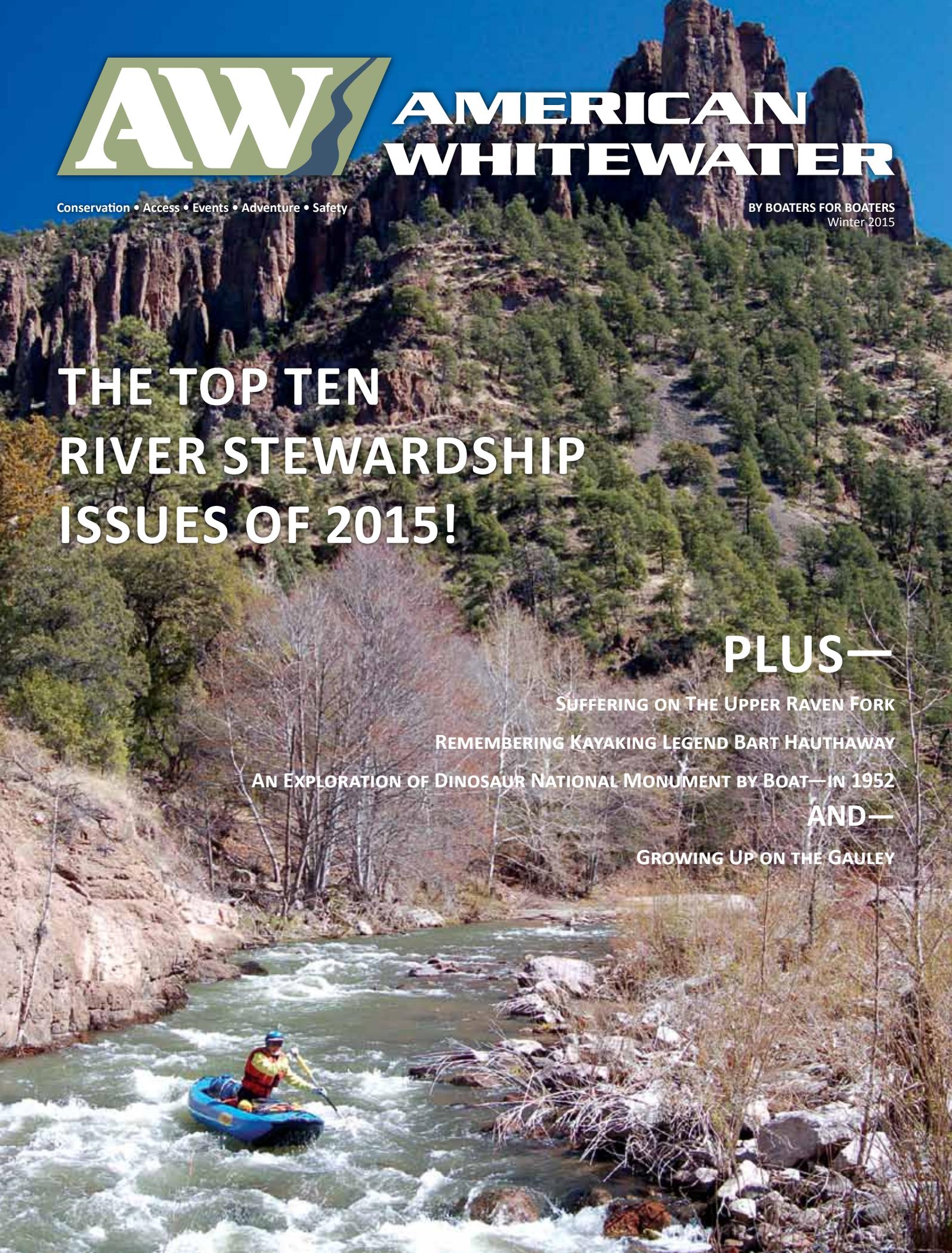
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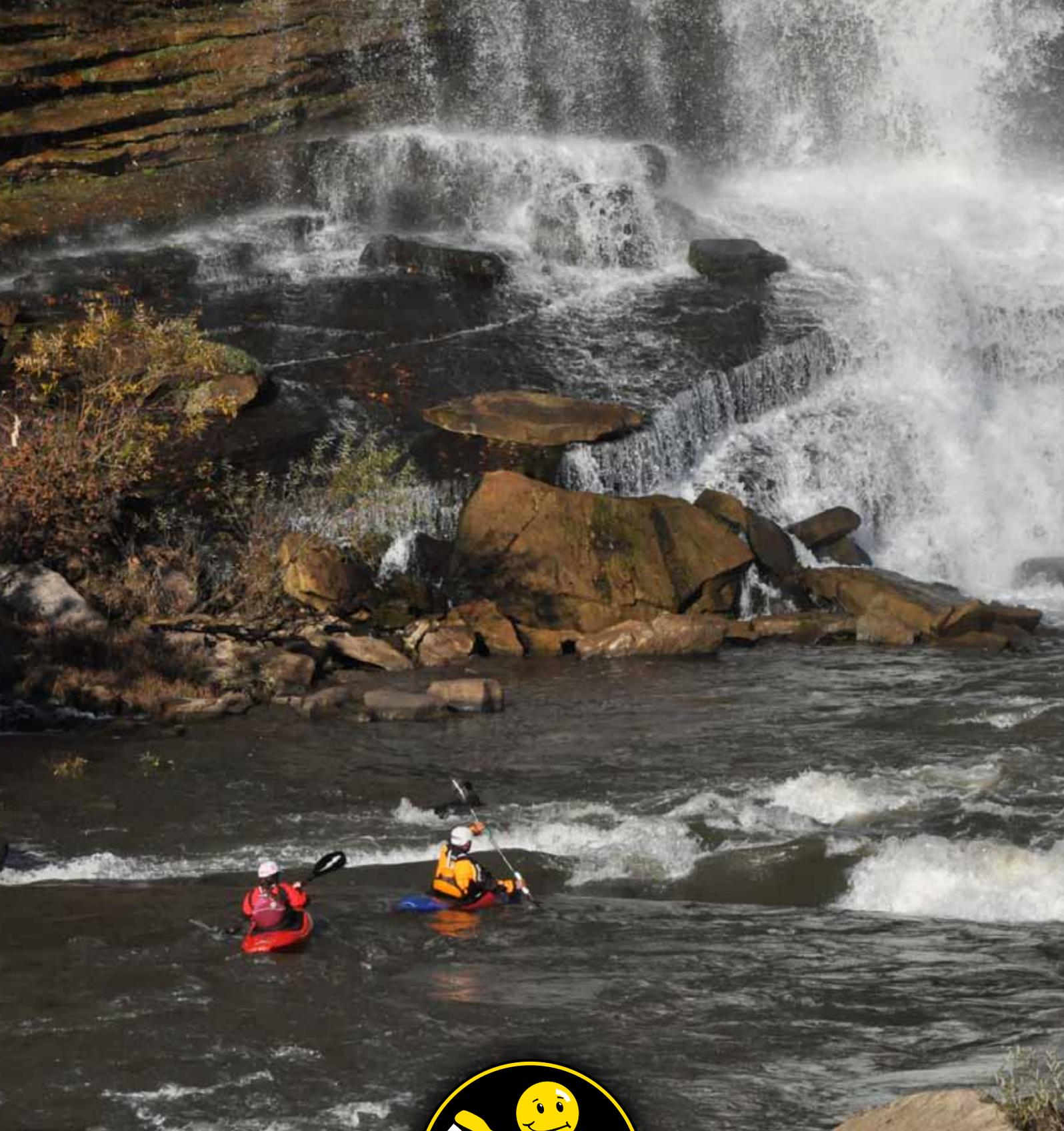
REMEMBERING KAYAKING LEGEND BART HAUTHAWAY

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AMERICAN WHITEWATER

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

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New Mexico's Gila River, one of several southwestern U.S. gems threatened by dams and reservoirs that would de-water miles of river downstream, and that American Whitewater is fighting to protect in 2015.

Photo by Larry Rice

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Our mission: "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely," is actively pursued through our conservation, access, safety, and education efforts under the umbrella of River Stewardship. The only national organization representing the interest of all whitewater paddlers, American Whitewater is the national voice for thousands of individual whitewater enthusiasts, as well as over 100 local paddling club affiliates.

AW's River Stewardship program adheres to the four tenets of our mission statement:

CONSERVATION: AW's professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished through direct participation in public decision-making

processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by kayak or canoe, encourages equitable and responsible management of whitewater rivers on public lands, and works with government agencies and other river users to achieve these goals.

SAFETY: AW promotes paddling safely, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, maintains a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty) and publishes and disseminates the internationally-recognized American Whitewater Safety Code.

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding

whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our bimonthly *AW Journal*, a monthly e-news, americanwhitewater.org, paddling events, educational events, and through direct communication with the press.

Together, AW staff, members, volunteers, and affiliate clubs can achieve our goals of conserving, protecting and restoring America's whitewater resources and enhancing opportunities to safely enjoy these wonderful rivers.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.



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Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization (Non-profit # 23-7083760) with a mission "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." American Whitewater is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates across America. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. All rights to information contained in this publication are reserved.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the features and editorials of American Whitewater are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Directors of American Whitewater or the editors of this publication. On occasion, American Whitewater publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

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THE JOURNEY AHEAD

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to the *American Whitewater Journal* for 2015! For over 60 years now, American Whitewater has worked hard to provide for the conservation and stewardship of rivers that are important to the paddling community. At the core of the American Whitewater river stewardship program is the connection paddlers have with wild rivers. In this issue of the *American Whitewater Journal*, our staff looked in their crystal balls and identified important themes for river management in the coming year. Our Top Ten River Stewardship Issues take into consideration a broad geographic cross section of the country and identify some of the pressures that our nations' wild rivers will face.

The staff of American Whitewater collectively works on over 100 river conservation and access projects across the country. With so much at stake, selection of the Top 10 River Issues is as much about general themes as it is about specific projects. These issues span the full spectrum of stewardship initiatives, from pushing back against new dam proposals to proactively engaging in Federal land management plans. Included in the mix is ongoing river access work to ensure that future generations of river lovers can enjoy the places that mean so much to us. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of threats to the rivers our community treasures. While our stewardship team is successful at beating back some of those pressures, others pop up in the ongoing game of "Whac-a-mole" that is typical of the demands faced by small, talented teams tackling large, national challenges.

What all of us close to these issues understand is that recreation and



Floating the Rogue with last year's AW trip.
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

stewardship are intimately linked. Time spent on rivers forms the basis for contemporary conservation ethics. It's very hard to love something you don't know, and it's our community's love of wild rivers that makes us aggressive defenders of rivers and their flows across the country. No other group knows the headwater reaches of major river systems better than boaters. It's that intimate knowledge that provides relevance to our story and helps to keep the conversation real with policy makers and river managers.

If you happen to be looking for a way to deepen that connection with wild rivers, join me on the American Whitewater

Rogue River trip in June. Thanks to support from Northwest Rafting Company, American Whitewater members have the opportunity to join our staff and board members on an exclusive four-day trip down Oregon's Rogue River. We invite you to come learn more about what we're up to while having a great time enjoying one of our nation's first Wild and Scenic Rivers. The trip, which will take place June 16-19, will be fully outfitted by Northwest Rafting Company with professional guides, exceptional food, transportation to and from Galice, and all necessary equipment. You will have the option of bringing your own boat, renting a boat, or joining as a passenger on one of the rafts. This trip was such a great experience last year that we wanted to offer the experience again. Please contact info@americanwhitewater.org if you have any questions about the trip.

Like our founders before us, we continue exploring and conserving wilderness waterways. As we move through the coming year the staff at American Whitewater will be pushing for new opportunities to reconnect rivers with paddlers, habitat, and local economies. Looking to the future, we continue to appreciate the importance of rivers and their role in supporting the health and well being of the paddling community.

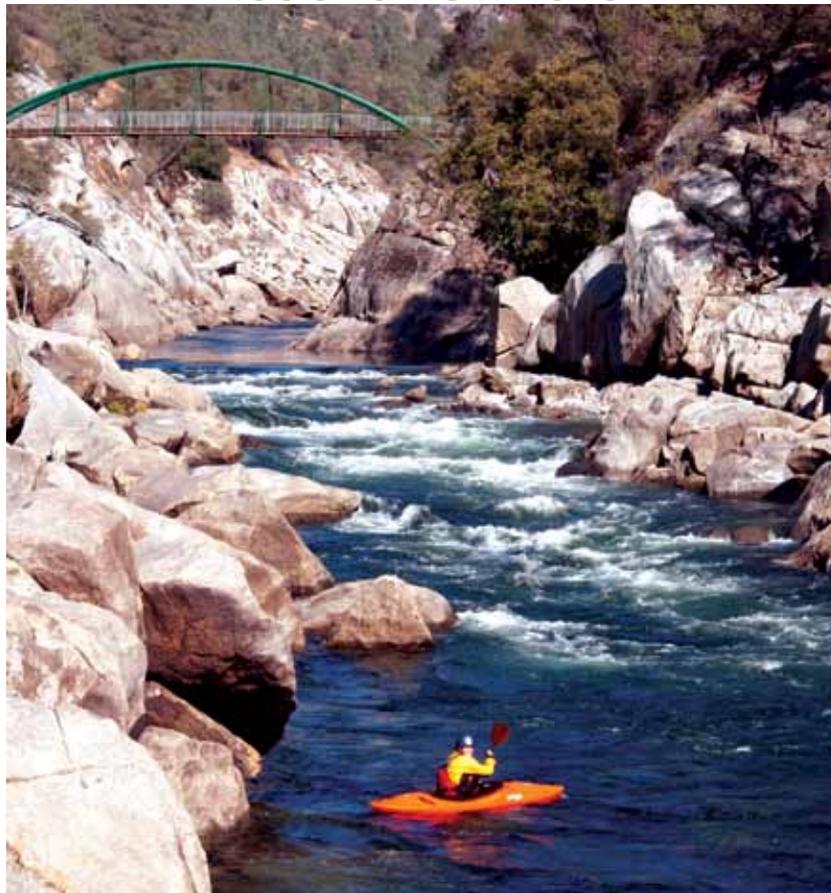
Take care of your paddling and your paddling will take care of you.

Happy New Year,

Executive Director, American Whitewater

STEWARDSHIP

AMERICAN WHITEWATER'S TOP TEN STEWARDSHIP ISSUES FOR 2015



The San Joaquin River is one of several rivers at risk as California pursues options for more water storage.
Photo by Paul Martzen

AT ANY GIVEN time American Whitewater staff are working on well over 100 river conservation and access projects on your behalf. All of our projects are certainly important, but each year we highlight the 10 that we think have the potential to be game changing. These are projects that we'll focus a lot of energy on, striving for a positive outcome. They also give our members a taste of what we'll be up to in the coming year. Twenty-five will hold some new challenges for our nation's rivers and river enthusiasts as large dam proposals have rekindled a threat not seen in decades. And not to be caught in a reactive stance, we are proactively working to protect thousands of miles of deserving streams from new dams by seeking Wild and Scenic Rivers Act status. We'll also be working to secure improved river flows and public access,

which is a winning strategy that American Whitewater has used for decades with incredible results across the country. These projects are sure to offer a wild high-stakes ride, and we'll need your help and support to see them through.

1. Protecting California Rivers from New Dams

The worsening drought has put water issues center stage in California. In November California voters approved a \$7.5 billion water bond, much of which will go to new water storage projects. While many potential projects include groundwater storage—a storage solution that American Whitewater generally supports—new surface storage projects have the potential to bring substantial impacts to a number of rivers in California. American Whitewater has already taken action to oppose several

of these new dam projects, but the passage of the water bond means that we have a lot of work to do in the future. In addition to the fact that these proposed projects will destroy miles of California rivers, they make little economic sense. More dams and taller dams will not make it rain more—the state's existing reservoirs are operating at a fraction of their potential capacity. American Whitewater will continue to take action to ensure that the funds from the water bond, and other sources, support projects that will actually assist in creating a better water future for California.

2. Opposing New Dams in Alaska

The Susitna and Talkeetna Rivers in Alaska are currently threatened by two proposals for new hydropower dams. American Whitewater has been actively engaged in halting the Susitna-Watana

Hydroelectric Project for over four years, and stepped up to protect the Talkeetna when a hydropower project was proposed in late 2014. Both of these rivers and others in the Susitna watershed offer a unique opportunity for an exceptionally high quality wilderness river experience. The rapids in Watana and Devil's Canyon on the Susitna River are legendary in whitewater circles as some of the world's most challenging whitewater. And the Talkeetna River, which is a tributary of the Susitna, is a spectacular Class III/IV whitewater wilderness run. The Susitna River system is one of only a handful of large river systems around the world that remains in its free-flowing condition from the headwaters to the ocean, and protecting these rivers is a priority for American Whitewater in 2015. Watch for ways that you can help us build the case for the national significance of these rivers and their unique recreational and ecological values in the coming year.

3. Securing a River Access Plan for Harpers Ferry (WV)

American Whitewater's vision is to strategically select and develop safe, high quality, public river access to the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. A



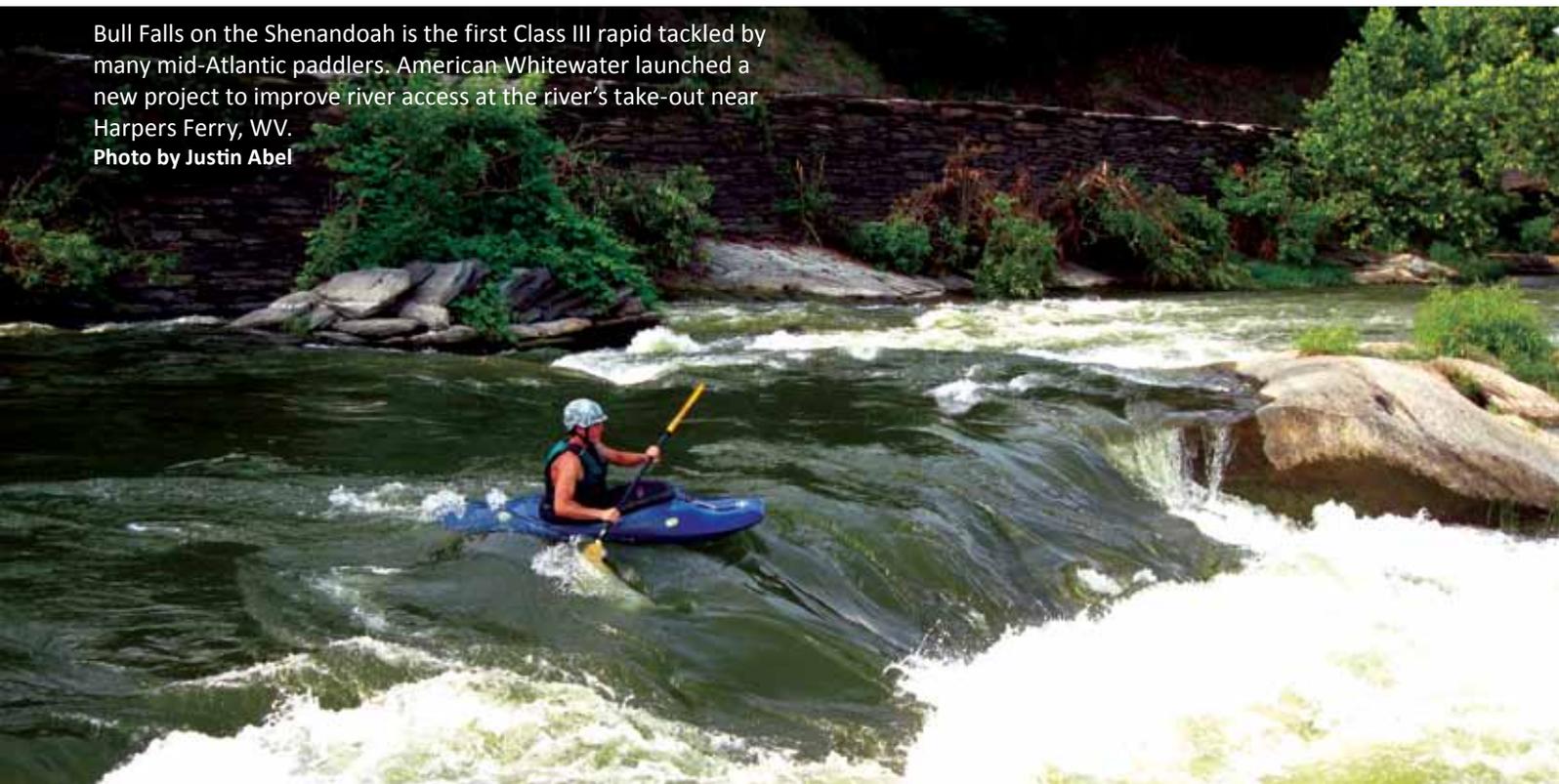
The Talkeetna offers one of the best Class III/IV backcountry boating trips in Alaska. A proposed hydropower project threatens to destroy the last few miles of whitewater.
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

stone's throw from our Nation's capitol, and flowing through two National Parks, the Staircase Section of the Shenandoah River and the Needles Section of the Potomac River are classic moderate whitewater runs for citizens living in nearby metropolitan and rural areas. These runs, which share take-outs, offer backyard outdoor recreation for many thousands of commercial and non-commercial paddlers, including many youth experiencing a wild river for the first time. Limited public land holdings,

multiple state and federal jurisdictions, a narrow gorge, and an active rail-line conspire to make river access challenging and often confusing for non-commercial paddlers. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park provides three parking spaces for non-commercial paddlers at a suitable take-out. Other paddlers typically make a risky dash across active train tracks to limited parking spaces at another location. The Staircase Section of the Shenandoah River and Needles Section of the Potomac

Bull Falls on the Shenandoah is the first Class III rapid tackled by many mid-Atlantic paddlers. American Whitewater launched a new project to improve river access at the river's take-out near Harpers Ferry, WV.

Photo by Justin Abel



STEWARDSHIP



Workers build an access trail on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie in 2004 on one of American Whitewater's first access projects in the Pacific Northwest. Today, we are working with local land managers to make additional access improvements.

Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

are recreational and natural gems, but providing access to and from these rivers that is commensurate with their quality has fallen through jurisdictional cracks for decades. Solutions exist that could welcome the public to enjoy these national treasures.

American Whitewater has solicited the support of the National Park Service's Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance ("RTCA") Program to help the paddling community create and implement a river management plan that crosses jurisdictional boundaries and welcomes paddlers to enjoy the river. RTCA has agreed to take the project on, but the project is contingent on significant local engagement by the paddling community. We're confident that the paddling community will rally, and we'll be there to help create lasting river access improvements on these two great rivers.

4. River Access in the Northwest and California

To be strong and effective advocates for free-flowing rivers, paddlers need to be able to get out on the water. In the ten years since American Whitewater established regional offices in California and the Pacific Northwest, we've been hard at work improving public access to

rivers throughout the Far West. In that time, we've planned and broken ground on numerous projects and developed strong relationships with local and regional agencies. The result? On-the-ground access improvements for paddlers and the general public.

From completing projects that have been in the works for years and planning new ones, to improving overall guidance and practices for building river access, American Whitewater will be busy with access in 2015. Here are some of the projects we'll be working on:

Building: We've already broken ground and will be completing access projects in Washington on Canyon Creek and on the Nooksack, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sauk, Sultan and White Salmon Rivers; in Oregon on the Clackamas River; and on the North Fork Feather River in California. Thanks to members that have made generous contributions for specific access projects, we'll see these to completion this year.

Planning: We're currently planning projects on the Nooksack, Suiattle, and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers in Washington, the Hood and Clackamas Rivers in Oregon and the South Fork American River in California.

Best Practices: We've worked closely with river managers and highway engineers on the access projects mentioned above. Over the years, American Whitewater has identified a need for additional guidance and best practices for access site design, development and management. In 2015, we will begin to develop this guidance with the goal of sharing it with engineers, land management agencies and land trusts, ensuring that future projects will be more effective at meeting access goals.

Policy: In California, the state transportation department (Caltrans) is required to consider and report on the feasibility of providing public river access for recreational purposes when a new state highway bridge is built across a river. In 2015, American Whitewater will work to institute similar policies in other western states and develop a model that can be applied across the country.

Private Access: Paddlers in the Pacific Northwest enjoy rivers that flow through large tracts of private commercial forestlands. Increasingly, these lands are no longer locally owned or managed, and gates have gone up in places that had been accessible to the public for many years. While private landowners have the right to restrict access to their land, American Whitewater will pursue policy initiatives that will provide incentives for private landowners to provide public access. In other cases we will support establishing community forests, where management is more responsive to community interests and values for improved public access, protection of water quality, and sustainable timber practices.

Our access work is largely supported by your membership and contributions, and we appreciate your support!

5. Protecting Southwestern Streamflows

The Southwestern U.S. is home to diverse river systems and some of the most hidden whitewater destinations in the country.

Rivers like the Upper Gila (NM), Verde (AZ), San Rafael (UT,) or White (CO/UT) provide rare, multi-day river trips enjoyed by paddlers from around the country. Unfortunately, lesser-known runs like these are threatened by dams and reservoirs that would de-water miles of river downstream. Using the information collected from participants in our 2014 flow surveys, American Whitewater is working to protect these rivers from the full impact of water development schemes and reservoir re-operations, and ensure that there will be enough stream flow to sustain paddling opportunities, river health, and the rivers' wild character.

6. Wild & Scenic Northeast Rivers

The rivers of the northeast are dotted with dams. Some are used for hydropower or flood control, but many are obsolete obstructions that damage river ecosystems and diminish recreation opportunities for boaters. American Whitewater is launching a new initiative to protect Northeastern rivers through the Northeast Wild & Scenic



New Mexico's Gila River, one of several southwestern gems threatened in 2015.

Photo by Larry Rice

River Caucus, a regional effort to support river designations from the Missisquoi River in northern Vermont through the Tarrifville Gorge section of the Farmington River in Connecticut. This effort will include rivers in the White Mountains Region in New Hampshire and the Green Mountains Region in Vermont. We're looking forward to working with our partners to protect some of the Northeast's most treasured rivers!

7. Protecting Rivers On Public Lands

There are over 70,000 dams in the United States and only 203 rivers protected from dams by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Fortunately, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") can protect special rivers by declaring them "eligible" or "suitable" for Wild and Scenic designation. This agency action offers some good interim protection for rivers while we work with Congress towards permanent protections. The best time to have rivers deemed eligible is during Forest Service and BLM planning efforts, which gives paddlers a solid chance at protecting their favorite rivers. American

The Tarrifville Gorge section of the Farmington River (CT) is just one of many rivers in the Northeast that AW is working to protect as Wild and Scenic.

Photo by William Duncan

Whitewater has been stepping up in a big way across the country to secure new river protections through this process. In 2014 we successfully advocated for new rivers to be considered for protection, found some areas where the agencies are overlooking rivers worthy of protection, and even uncovered instances where the agencies are attempting to wrongly release rivers from protection. 2015 will be huge for our work to protect Wild and Scenic streams—and we'll need your help! We'll be actively working on the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia (CA), Okanogan-Wenatchee (WA), Nez Perce, Clearwater, Panhandle (ID), Kootenai, Flathead, Lewis & Clark, Gallatin (MT), Nantahala, and Pisgah (NC) National Forests. On the BLM side we'll be engaged in Wild and Scenic planning in Western Oregon, and on the Arkansas, Colorado, and Dolores Rivers in Colorado, and Utah's Green River. All told, we are aiming to protect well over 100 awesome whitewater rivers. Paddler comments to these Forests and BLM units advocating for these rivers, and sharing your values and perspectives firsthand, is extremely valuable. Keep an eye on the American Whitewater website and Facebook page for opportunities to share your knowledge and passion for these rivers.

STEWARDSHIP

8. Protecting Free-Flowing Rivers Across the Northwest

With abundant rainfall, high gradient, and proximity to population centers, rivers of the Pacific Northwest have always been attractive targets for hydropower developers, and their dreams for new dams have not gone away. The pressure for new hydropower continues, as ideas for new projects spring up more quickly than old inefficient projects can be removed. In 2015, American Whitewater will work both proactively and defensively to protect free-flowing rivers in the region. We are part of several campaigns to protect rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and we serve a leadership role in many of these. In Washington, we're actively working to protect the Nooksack River, including all forks of the Nooksack and major tributaries; Illabot Creek; and the Wild Olympics, which includes 19 rivers and their major tributaries. In Oregon, we're seeking protection for the Molalla River; the Owyhee Canyonlands, which will include expanded Wild and Scenic designation; and Wild and Scenic protection for the major tributaries for the Rogue River. We'll also continue to seek protections for



North Carolina's North Harper Creek is one of many whitewater rivers the Forest Service has overlooked for Wild and Scenic eligibility. American Whitewater is working to protect North Harper and over 100 other whitewater rivers across the country with Wild and Scenic designation.

Photo by Chris Clark

rivers in Montana through the Montana Headwaters Campaign. Additionally, we will continue to fight proposals for new hydropower development on rivers like the

Skykomish and Ernie's Gorge on the North Fork Snoqualmie in Washington.

The Dungeness River in Washington is one of several that would be protected with Wild Olympics legislation.
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe



9. Restoring Flows to Colorado's Dolores River

In 2015, American Whitewater will work to implement new guidelines for dam releases on the Dolores River, helping restore whitewater boating opportunities and native fish habitats through the Ponderosa Gorge, Snaggletooth Rapid, and the wild river canyons between Slickrock and Bedrock. For many years, we have worked to improve flows in the Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir, and in 2014 American Whitewater and a small group of water interests in southwest Colorado completed a new management plan that will help recover native fish and whitewater boating opportunities for over 100 miles of the river. The plan was developed in conjunction with a proposal to designate the Lower Dolores River as a National Conservation Area, and will protect and enhance the river's values by improving how releases are made from McPhee Dam. With a good snowpack in Colorado's San Juan Mountains this winter, we expect to announce a spring release that will provide optimal boating opportunities for at least five days, while reestablishing a healthy river channel and native fishery. Watch American Whitewater's Facebook page and website for updates on the Dolores River.

10. Promoting Healthy Rivers in the Northeast Through Hydropower Relicensing

From the Green River Dam in northern Vermont to the dams along the mainstem of the Connecticut River and its tributaries, American Whitewater is working hard to ensure that paddlers' voices are heard in FERC relicensing proceedings and that boating opportunities are enhanced and flows are restored. Through our involvement with the hydropower relicensing process, we will create new boating opportunities and restore entire sections of rivers. Last year, we celebrated 20 years of whitewater releases on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts. In 2015, we will begin another relicensing effort on the same section of river, seeking to protect and expand the boating opportunities



A rafter negotiates the lower Dolores River's Snaggletooth Rapid at high flows. With enough water, in 2015 there will be more opportunities like this one.

Photo by Nathan Fey

that we obtained in the prior settlement agreement. Balancing power generation with all other beneficial uses will ensure that our Northeastern rivers are preserved to be enjoyed by future generations of paddlers.

Conclusion

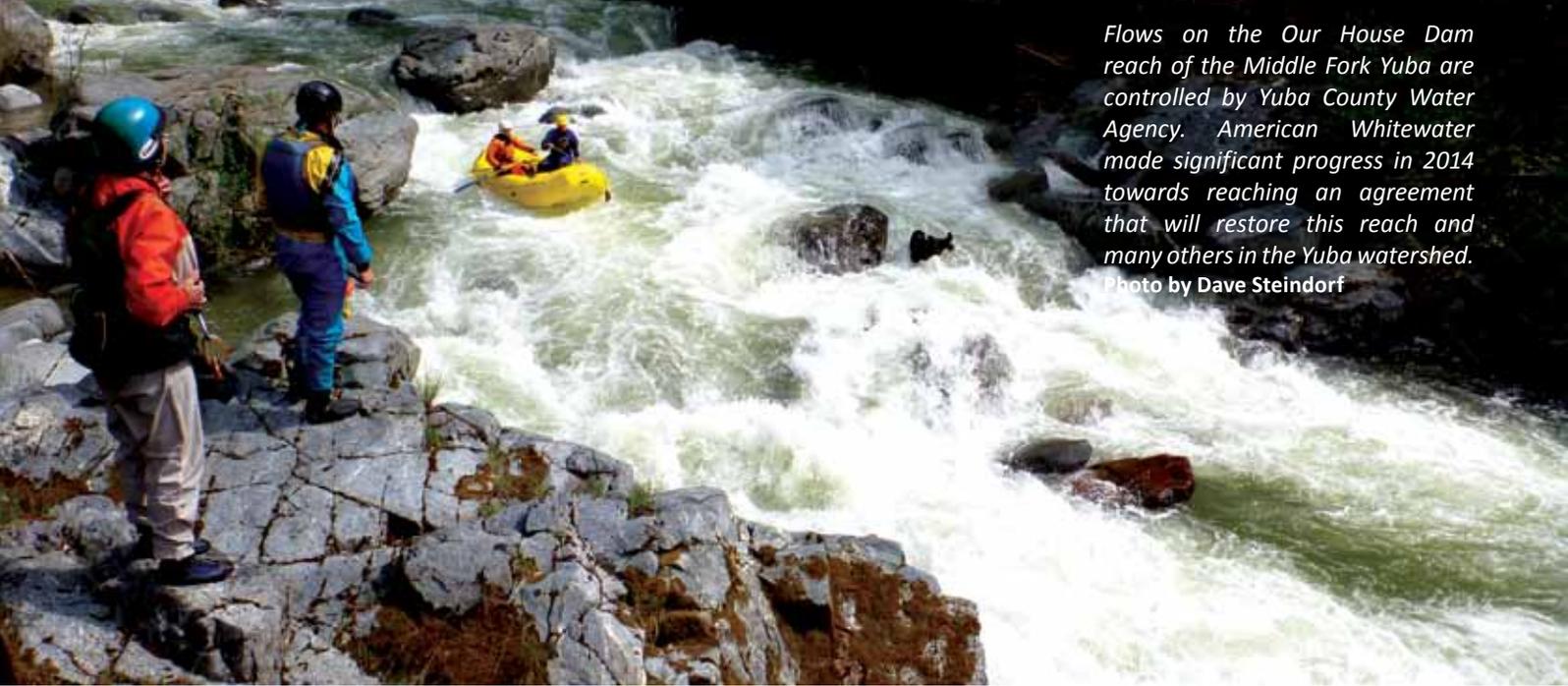
So there they are, our 2015 Top 10 River Stewardship issues! There is a direct role for our members (that would be you) in each of these projects. Your membership dollars and donations directly fund this work. Your emails and calls to decision makers when we ask for them can help these projects succeed. Showing up to a public meeting or hearing is hugely helpful. Your photos, videos, and stories about the rivers featured in these projects help build public awareness and enthusiasm for project goals. We hope to offer a meaningful way for each of our members

Hydropower relicensing provides us with an opportunity to protect treasured boating opportunities like those on the Deerfield River (MA).

Photo by Bruce Lessels



What happened with American Whitewater's 2014 Top Ten? Here's an update...



Flows on the Our House Dam reach of the Middle Fork Yuba are controlled by Yuba County Water Agency. American Whitewater made significant progress in 2014 towards reaching an agreement that will restore this reach and many others in the Yuba watershed. Photo by Dave Steindorf

1. Wild Olympics Conservation Initiative

IN JANUARY REPRESENTATIVE Kilmer and Senator Murray reintroduced the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2014. The legislation would permanently protect more than 126,000 acres of ancient and mature forests on the Olympic National Forest as wilderness and 19 Olympic Peninsula rivers and their major tributaries as Wild and Scenic. Gary Korb described the Olympic Peninsula as a “whitewater paradise, a land of towering mountains where rivers drop as much as 5,000 feet in 20 miles on their way to the sea,” with more than 70 runs from Class I to Class VI. While the bill did not receive a hearing this past session of Congress, Representative Kilmer has emerged as a strong champion for wild rivers and has joined Senator Murray as a true friend to the whitewater paddling community. Wild Olympics will continue to be a priority in 2015.

2. Colorado River Access & Flood Recovery

In 2014 several ballot initiatives threatened

American Whitewater's efforts to secure water rights that will benefit recreation and river health in Colorado. These initiatives would have created sweeping changes to Colorado water rights law and jeopardized the State's Instream Flow Protection Program. Fortunately, we helped prevent these initiatives from taking hold and Colorado water law remains unchanged. On the flood-recovery front, paddlers dedicated significant time and resources rebuilding local river access and recreational facilities along Front Range rivers. Work to rebuild the Saint Vrain and Big Thompson watersheds will continue in 2015, including restoring whitewater parks, access points, and riverside trails. We're also exploring opportunities to protect streamflows and help recover recreation economies in our flood-affected communities.

3. Montana Headwaters River Conservation Initiative

American Whitewater and our partners continued to build support for new Wild and Scenic designations in Montana. We met with dozens of potential partners, launched an online video series, and took a trip to D.C. to talk to political and agency

leaders. We'll be launching our proposal early this spring, and spending the rest of the year collecting endorsements. It was a great year for the campaign, and 2015 is going to be even better.

4. Connecticut River at Turners Falls & Bellows Falls

American Whitewater staff and over 60 volunteers participated in controlled flow studies over the summer at Sumner Falls (VT/NH) and Turners Falls (MA), where American Whitewater is working to restore whitewater runs that have been dewatered by hydropower dams. These studies demonstrated the potential for new boating opportunities and improved river habitat once flows are restored and regulated. We expect to complete the final Connecticut River flow study at Bellows Falls (VT/NH) in the late spring of 2015. Once completed, the studies will be the basis for negotiating with the utilities for boating releases that will be required under its hydropower license.

STEWARDSHIP

5. River Management on National Forests

American Whitewater went big on forest planning in 2014, filing detailed comments on Forest Service proposals and decisions in CA, ID, MT, and NC. In Montana we filed a formal appeal of a weak Forest Service decision and won. Thanks to that effort, many awesome whitewater rivers will get a second chance at protection. We also kept our focus on the big picture, and travelled to D.C. to share our experiences with Forest Service leadership. We've seen the results, as each Forest that goes through the process is learning from and improving upon those that went before them, in part thanks to our feedback. In the coming year or two we'll have final decisions and will know which streams we helped protect.

6. Paddling Management in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Yosemite National Parks

In 2014 the National Park Service released the final Wild and Scenic Management Plans for the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers in Yosemite National Park. We are happy to report that our effort to restore paddling opportunities in the oldest park in the U.S. was successful. We still have a few details to work out with Park staff before paddling opens up in 2015, and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the Park as this plan is implemented. Yellowstone National Park chose a different approach and avoided even considering paddling in their management plan. We remain deeply disappointed by Yellowstone National Park's leadership, and will continue to encourage sustainable management of paddling that makes sense for the Yellowstone ecosystem.

7. Protecting Free-Flowing Rivers Across the Pacific Northwest

American Whitewater worked to defend and strengthen "Protected Areas" in the Pacific Northwest, which are river reaches that are protected from future hydropower

development by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council ("Council"). Hydropower developers sought to eliminate Protected Areas, which cover about 20% of the region's rivers (approximately 44,000 river miles). The Council finalized its Amended Fish and Wildlife Program in early fall, and although the Council did not accept our recommendations for strengthening Protected Areas, we're pleased to see that we successfully defended the program. We also educated over 30 regional groups about Protected Areas, and strengthened our coalition for fighting future hydropower proposals.

8. Colorado River Basin Study - Healthy Flows

Over the past year, American Whitewater served as the sole recreation interest in a multi-state effort to find solutions to the Colorado River Basin's water shortage. We worked with 19 other lead negotiators from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado to identify a handful of rivers where shortages exist—particularly in meeting recreational and environmental flows—and identify ways to meet these needs through reservoir reoperations, cooperative agreements, or new policy initiatives. In 2014, American Whitewater conducted flow studies on 19 rivers across the southwest. Hundreds of paddlers participated in these studies, helping to define a range of streamflows that support river recreation. In 2015, our efforts are focused on addressing shortages in the Colorado River system where recreational flows, like those in Cataract Canyon, Moab, and Westwater Canyon, may be affected by changes to upstream dams and reservoirs. For more information and updates, visit americanwhitewater.org

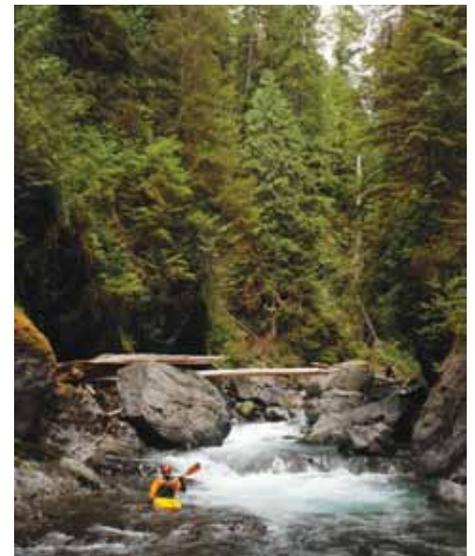
9. Stream Access Rights in Virginia

Organizers of the legislative campaign for stream access in Virginia focused on building support for legislation in January of 2016 rather than try for another round of legislation in January 2015. This was a wise choice, as the political leanings of the state

have been too great to overcome in recent years with regards to stream access. We are hopeful that through additional relationship building and outreach, legislation may be possible in the future. Stream access in Virginia has long been a major issue and will likely remain one for years to come. American Whitewater is actively working with the paddling community to seek a path forward, and we'll keep at it.

10. Yuba River Flow Restoration

In 2014, American Whitewater worked with state and federal resource agencies and the Yuba County Water Agency ("YCWA") to restore seasonal flows to the Yuba River by developing flow scenarios at the agency's hydropower project. This process is intense, and involves digesting study information, developing an understanding of the various project release capabilities, and running numerous modeling scenarios. Our work to restore seasonal flows at the YCWA project will restore the spring snowmelt to this system, which will benefit fish, frogs, and whitewater recreation. In 2015 we will negotiate the final flow proposal with the utility.



Paddlers enjoying the Quinault Gorge (WA), one of 19 Olympic Peninsula rivers that can still receive Wild and Scenic designation with the passage of the Wild Olympics Conservation Initiative in 2015 .
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

STEWARDSHIP

GORE CANYON WHITEWATER PARK CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

BY NATHAN FEY



A festive groundbreaking for the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, was a great day on the Upper Colorado River. It was cold, clear, and bright. And it was the day a diverse group of river folks gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park in Grand County, Colorado, near the Pumphouse Recreation Area.

In a rare and hopefully more common expression of collaboration, water agencies, paddlers, local officials, and land management folks from the Bureau of Land Management worked together to fast-track this great project. And there's certainly a big group of beneficiaries: the Pumphouse section of the Colorado River currently sees between 70,000 and 75,000 user days per year, according to the BLM.

Known as some of the wildest whitewater in the country, this stretch will now be even better, thanks to the creation of a recreational in-channel diversion (RICD), the legal name for the creation of a large play wave, among other features, made with natural boulders. The project has taken several years to reach the point of

final approval, and American Whitewater has been working hard to ensure that the park is realized.

The project provides important benefits to river recreation and river health, in Grand County and for many miles downstream. It also provides certainty for downstream water users, creates new opportunities for paddlers and anglers, and complements many other river management actions currently being developed across the Colorado River Basin.

AW has championed this project for two reasons. The first is obvious: it will be a great asset for paddlers of all stripes in an area already high on many "bucket" lists. The second is a little more complex: the Upper Colorado River's physical proximity to the Colorado Front Range has resulted in trans-mountain diversions that remove more than 60% of the Upper Colorado's flow. That means there is a pressing need to protect in-stream flows in this part of the river for paddling, and to ensure that yet more water doesn't get piped away.

Decades of overuse and a 15-year drought have taken their toll on Colorado's waters. Reservoir levels have dropped 35 percent in the last 12 years and average flows on the Colorado River are half what they were two centuries ago. These losses threaten not only paddlers, but also the \$9 billion annual recreational economy of the Colorado River in the state. On top of that, the state's draft water plan, also released in December 2014, is woefully inadequate in protecting the state's many wild rivers. As a result, many Western Slope river runners, decision makers, and conservationists are looking for ways to keep in-stream flows healthy, and to build in protections now for rivers that may be threatened by future demand from the thirsty cities of the Front Range.

Grand County decision makers, well aware of these threats, applied for and obtained conditional water rights to protect their stretch of the Colorado River for recreational use. With these rights, Grand County will have the ability to achieve flows between 500 cfs and 2,500 cfs. Depending on future water claims, this segment of the Colorado River was in danger of

flows falling below environmental and recreational needs, potentially imperiling the paddling values for this segment. As part of the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA, signed in 2012) the Denver Water Board agreed not to oppose Grand County's claim.

The Wild and Scenic Stakeholders' Group (<http://www.upcowildandscenic.com/>), including AW, is striving to meet the minimum flows to help protect paddling through the CRCA. Our work with and support for Grand County means that the County can now place a "call" on the river, helping ensure that new or future water uses would not result in flows below the minimums needed to support the recreational and environmental values in this segment.

As Lurline Undrbrink Curran, Grand County Manager, said at the groundbreaking ceremony: "We want to keep water in the river, we want it to flow down the river, we want it to flow out of the county, and that was our charge. But how do we do that under Colorado water law? This RICD is one of the ways we're doing that."

The project is a strategic effort to protect recreational interests covered by Colorado

law and in doing so it forms an important part of the CRCA, as well as to provide *permanent protection* for flows in support of the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV) of the Upper Colorado as part of the BLM's Resource Management Plan in support of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Stakeholders Group Alternative Management Plan.

The park will allow Grand County to "call," or guarantee, 860 cfs from April 5th - October 15th, and 1500 cfs from April 29th - July 22nd. In the south channel, nearest to the Pumphouse site, will be pre-cast structures generating a hydraulic jump evident at all flows. The island between the two channels will be submerged at 2,000 cfs. The pre-cast structure will be submerged for flows above 500 cfs and will create a wave feature. The project will not have the pre-cast structures on river left or river right sides, and instead will consist of select seven-foot boulders with an open gap in the center of the channel. The gap and boulders will be below the existing grade, and the gap will create a fish passage channel.

The entire river structure will be "keyed in" to the riverbed, with minimum depths of four feet to six feet below the existing bed to prevent scour. Boulder terraces

will be constructed to stabilize the banks, with the south bank including a slab stone terrace. The south terrace will also serve as a staging area and viewing platform for spectators and users.

The construction of the park will be completed by April 1, says Jason Carey, of River Restoration Engineers and the head river engineer for the project, who also designed the popular Glenwood Springs Whitewater Park. Funding for the \$1.7 million project was secured in part through grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

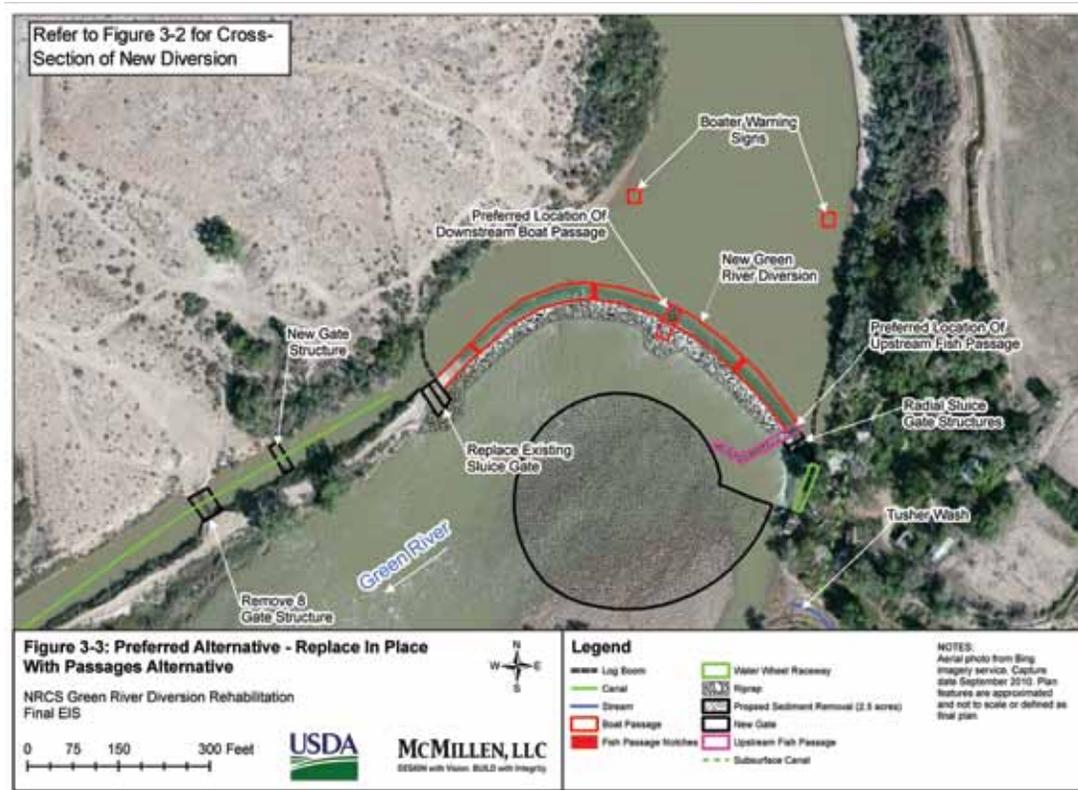
By building this project, and securing important water rights, our communities can enjoy long-term protections for our river and its many uses. And perhaps most important to AW members, river-based recreational opportunities in the region will be greatly enhanced. Paddlers of all ages, from beginner to expert, will have a place to develop new skills in one of the best natural settings on the Upper Colorado River. The local economy will be strengthened by this project, and the public's ability to enjoy this stretch of river will be enhanced.



STEWARDSHIP

GREEN RIVER VICTORY, BUT NUCLEAR DANGER LURKS

BY NATHAN FEY



Plans for rebuilding the Tusher Canyon Dam, aka Green River Diversion Structure include boat passage and fish passage. Courtesy of National Resources Conservation Service

WHEN THE GREEN River's Tusher Canyon Dam (UT) was damaged by flooding in 2011, any number of things could have resulted. Residents and business owners of the area and nearby town, named for the river itself, had interests at stake, including: agriculture, given the Green Valley's local fame for its summer melons; energy development, since the Green River powers a small hydropower plant today; and recreation, since the structure is the only barrier to downstream navigability on the Green from the Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell.

The float from Green River down to the confluence with the Colorado is a favorite of paddlers from across the country. It's usually a placid ride; many canoes take this trip with ease. But the 2011 floods woke up the paddling community and state, and federal decision makers to the reality that a

nearly 90-year-old dam was in serious need of repair. Fueled by record snow packs and a very late spring melt above the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, the Green ran at nearly 45,000 cfs in May of 2011, overrunning the dam and flooding many low-lying areas of the town of Green River, taking out roads and fields along the way.

In many ways, we've all been waiting on the Tusher Canyon Dam, also called the Green River Diversions Structure, since then. The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is in charge of the project, and the dam's rehabilitation could have gone any number of ways—anything from no action to replacing the dam, with many intermediate alternatives in between.

NRCS considered many factors; American Whitewater has been urging the agency to consider recreational use in the project, and to include boat passage so that

downstream navigability is maintained. We worked long and hard with a very diverse crew of local, state and federal officials to help ensure that the upgraded dam became an improvement for paddlers, fish, and the local community, while still providing the irrigation and hydropower benefits it was designed to create.

We're very excited to say that the final EIS features boat passage on the new dam, while ensuring water security for farms and fish passage. It's a triple win and a major success for the river and all who use it. The benefits of including the passage are many, with recreation and tourism that benefit the local economy at the top of the list.

Now for the details: the plan for rebuilding the dam includes downstream boat passage and upstream signage warning boaters of the dam. Boat passage and public safety are design elements that American Whitewater

has worked to include, and we are pleased that the NRCS and UDAF has incorporated these elements into the project's final plan.

Additionally, the NRCS lists 147 cfs as water allocated for downstream boat passage as part of the project. What does this mean for paddlers?

1. The dam will be rebuilt so as to eliminate the "keeper hydraulic" formed immediately downstream of the dam. This will improve downstream boat passage at high flows.
2. The new structure will include a boat chute in the center of the dam that will allow for downstream boat passage at low flows.
3. Signs upstream will inform paddlers of the dam and the boat chute option.
4. The NRCS's 147cfs water allocation will keep enough water in the boat chute to float a large raft at low flows.

Boat passage is important not only for paddlers, but for the town of Green River. "Having more people boating the Green River would be a benefit to the city," said Jason Carey, an engineer with the Colorado firm River Restoration. "It is not unreasonable to have safe boating and great melons in Green River."

And the benefits don't stop there. The plan for the new dam includes a laundry list of items that will benefit fish and riparian corridor health. From building a new dam instead of upgrading the old one, to installing upstream and downstream fish passage, to creating both wet and dry downstream boat passage and warning signs upstream for public safety, it's rare to see such solid decision-making in such a collaborative way.

Tusher Canyon Dam after the damaging 2011 floods.

Public comments on the draft EIS were strongly supportive of boat passage as well. From energy companies, to the Governor's office, to paddlers from across the region, nearly every one of the 83 comments submitted on the project advocated for boat passage and public safety. Thanks to AW's work, we will see a river that's much safer, and for much more of the year.

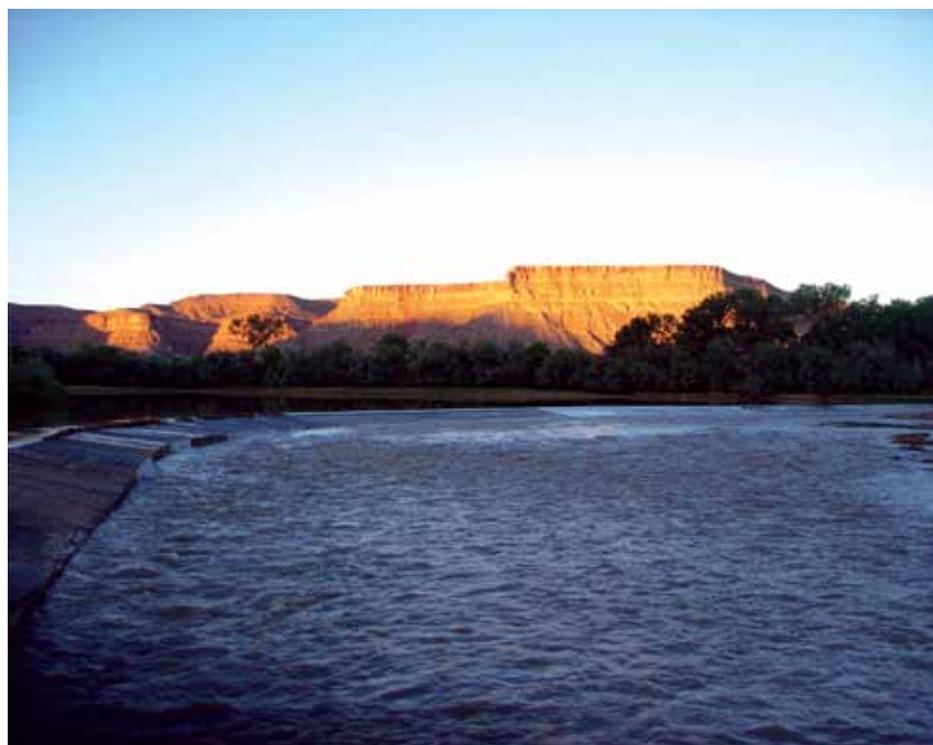
Now that we're seeing positive developments on the river's navigability, we may need to turn our attention to the threat of a nuclear power plant that Blue Castle Holding has proposed near the river. The first steps toward construction were taken in August 2014, when Blue Castle signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Westinghouse Electric to begin planning efforts.

That step, and the water rights Blue Castle obtained from the Green River, have raised many concerns such as the safety and oversight of nuclear power, local water use interference, wildlife concerns including endangered fish, over-appropriation of Colorado River water, the

economic viability of the project, and the financial ability of Blue Castle to complete the project.

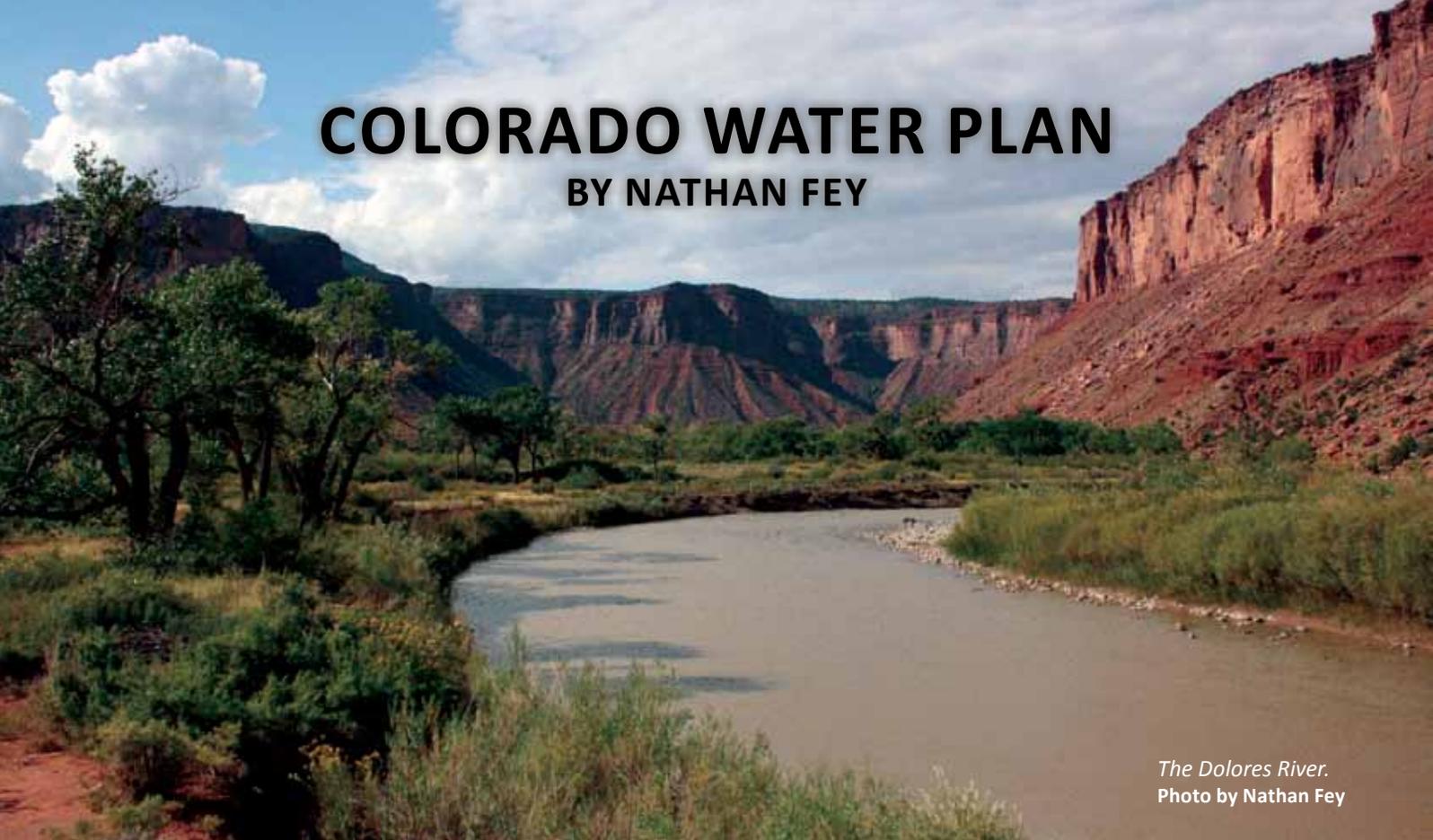
Almost 4.4 million acre-feet of water flows by the city of Green River every year. Blue Castle is seeking 53,600 acre-feet of that water to be allocated for its nuclear power plant project. Though not a lot compared to the river's flow, 53,600 acre-feet will certainly have an impact, especially on efforts underway to provide habitat for recovery of endangered fish. Thankfully, prior to any construction, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission is mandated to oversee an exhaustive design process to make certain the proposed site is safe for nuclear power, and that the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act requirements are complied with. That's where AW's engagement may come into play. And we will keep you posted.

But for now, we have plans for the new dam, and the promise of future great paddles on the Green.



COLORADO WATER PLAN

BY NATHAN FEY



The Dolores River.
Photo by Nathan Fey

THE COLORADO WATER Plan is a study in politics for paddlers, and also an important lesson in why it's important for American Whitewater to play in the state policy world, as tough as it is sometimes. In Colorado, it's incredibly important because our state is arid, home to a rapidly growing population, and according to many scientists, in the cross-hairs of climate change. As paddlers, this means that our wild and beautiful rivers are in danger even before the next dam or diversion is announced. So back in 2013, when Governor Hickenlooper got the ball rolling with a state water planning process, we entered the fray, knowing that there needed to be a voice for the wild and free rivers involved.

There is plenty of water to meet many of Colorado's needs, but only if we use it wisely. And wisdom hasn't been the primary virtue of the state's water use over the last century. The water plan was a political gamble set up to help surface many of the state's conflicts over water, and to start to move toward a sensible allocation of the state's scarce water resources. It arose out of the realization that the state's supply/demand curves are on a collision course;

there simply won't be enough water to meet projected demands over the coming decades. But there's an important caveat here. Currently there is not enough water to meet "projected" demands, based on scenarios in which the big Front Range cities haven't gotten serious about water conservation, and in which agricultural inefficiencies still plague Colorado.

So we decided to get involved, to help offer the perspective that we can have healthy rivers, healthy cities, and a healthy farm economy—and that our state's river-based recreation economy is a key concern for paddlers, as well as being a driver for economic growth and the quality of life that attracts so many people to Colorado. We also chose to participate because we knew we could make common cause with the many river-based businesses that make Colorado's river recreation economy a \$12 billion per year value.

In December, a draft plan was released and unfortunately it doesn't go nearly far enough to ensure that our river resources will be protected in the future, and that water conservation—not new dams—is the right path forward. Common sense

and solid data tell us that the multiple benefits of protecting healthy flows in our rivers extend beyond the state's vibrant recreational economy to encompass healthier watersheds and the communities that depend on them. Instead of visionary leadership, the state plan relies on the same old formulas of sucking up Western Slope rivers to meet unchecked growth on the eastern side of the Rockies.

The plan will be finalized at the end of 2015. Because of that, there is a major opportunity for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to show more leadership and for Coloradans to let the board know that healthy rivers are a non-negotiable part of Colorado's identity.

And as I look back on 2014, I see three key phases of our work and more importantly, three important jobs we, as river advocates, need to do to protect the waters we love and enjoy so much.

Phase 1: Understanding, and Mapping the River-scape

Our first task was to understand the politics of the water plan, and then to come in with solid data about what

makes a river recreation-worthy. A key part of this phase was helping to update outdated conceptions of how rivers matter to communities. Colorado was once a state of farms, but it is no longer.

Today the Front Range cities like Denver and Aurora are centers of population, and farms are not the lifeblood of the economy as they once were. With the rise of cities, recreation has become ever more important to ever more people around the state. Many of us who grew up here, and many who moved here for the beauty and wildness of the state, bank on our time out on the rivers and in the mountains to sustain us. This recreational economy is also incredibly important to the state's economy, and becoming more so by the day. But state decision makers don't see it that way; many are trapped in an old view of the state and our needs, and the recreation economy isn't part of that vision. We knew that without updating the vision, any water plan wouldn't prioritize the tough choices that will need to be made to come to a new, more fair, and less destructive allocation of water.

As most of our readers know, one of AW's great strengths is our ability to get and distribute on-the-river flow data through our network of volunteers and members so that folks know how a river is flowing on any given day. This also allows us to know what makes a river good to paddle, and what kind of flows sustain a real recreation experience on any given reach. So we took that data, for all of the river basins covered in the plan, and brought it into the water plan process.

Phase 2: Making Our Voices Heard

Then it was time to make our voices heard. Public meetings were held around the state, which was divided into "roundtable" forums for each of the five major river basins. This created a few pretty surreal moments, like the one in Glenwood Springs where some board members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which is organizing

the plan, said they believed golf courses were as important as free-flowing rivers.

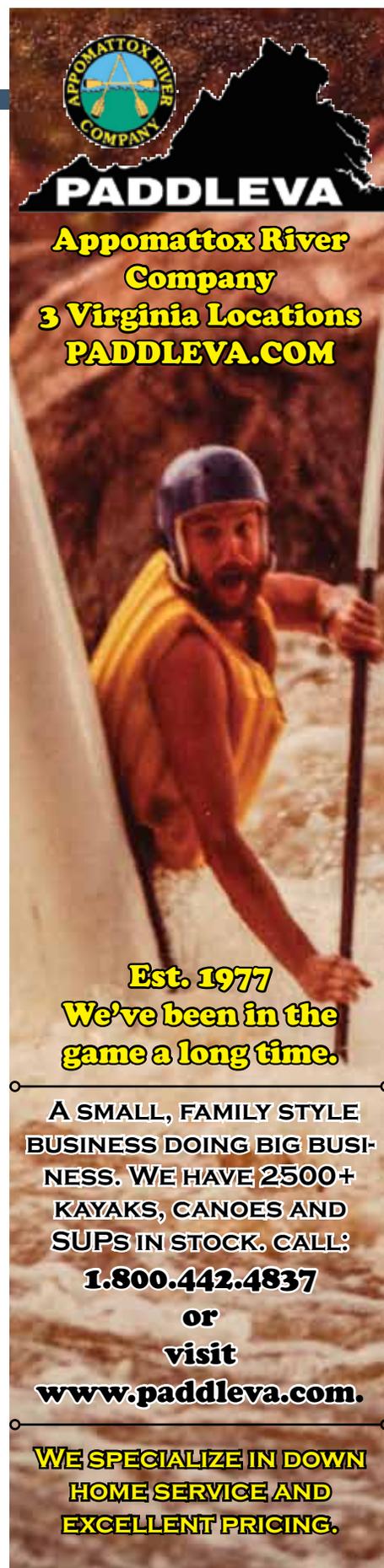
At that meeting, and many others, we partnered with recreation business owners, AW members and affiliates, and conservation organizations to present a unified front on behalf of our rivers, and particularly against any large-scale trans-mountain diversions that would siphon Colorado River water over to the Front Range cities.

We worked hard to put out a message that we could have it all, with careful planning, and that moving water across the mountains was a far less efficient, and far more expensive, solution than keeping it in the rivers and meeting our needs with conservation first. This means working to form coalitions with farmers and those towns and cities who truly get how important conservation is to all of us, especially those of us who love rivers.

Phase 3: Pressing Forward to the Final Plan

In December, the initial draft plan came out. It left much to be desired, but it provided a field to play on, a place we could have the tough conversations needed to make the tough choices ahead. The coming year will be long and challenging as we try to preserve what's good in the plan, and stop what we can.

Rivers make Colorado the place we know and love. Rivers reflect the decisions we will make as a state and speak volumes about how we can navigate the tough choices ahead, if only we would listen. We know the choices will be challenging, but ultimately there is enough water for us all to live well. We simply must demand that cities and farms use it more wisely, so that paddlers of the future can have the fantastic experiences so many of us have had on Colorado's rivers.



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STEWARDSHIP

NORTHEAST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

BY BOB NASDOR

IN THE NORTHEAST, American Whitewater has been busy working on hydropower relicensing projects. On the **Connecticut River**, we completed controlled flow studies this summer at Sumner Falls (VT/NH) and Turners Falls (MA), and we look forward to the Bellows Falls (VT/NH) flow study next spring. We've also been working on relicensing projects on the **Green River** (VT), the **Little River** (VT), and the **Schoharie River** (NY), and we are beginning

work on the relicensing of the **Deerfield River** (MA) this month.

We also launched the Northeast Wild & Scenic River Caucus this fall in an effort to build support for efforts to protect the **Upper Missisquoi and Trout River** (VT), the **Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook** (CT), and other treasured rivers in the region.

And in New Hampshire, we have been working to prevent the state from imposing an annual boat sticker fee on canoes and kayaks, and working with state agencies to support river access and protection efforts without unduly burdening the boating community.

SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN WHITEWATER ROGUE TRIP BACK FOR A SECOND YEAR

BY MARK SINGLETON

IN JUNE 2015, American Whitewater members will have an opportunity to join American Whitewater staff and board members for an exclusive four-day trip on Oregon's Wild and Scenic Rogue River. We invite you to come learn more about what we're up to while having a great time enjoying one of our nation's first Wild and Scenic Rivers. The trip, which will take place June 16-19, will be fully outfitted by Northwest Rafting Company with professional guides, exceptional food, transportation to and from Galice, and all equipment. You will have the option of bringing your own boat, renting a boat, or joining as a passenger on one of the rafts.

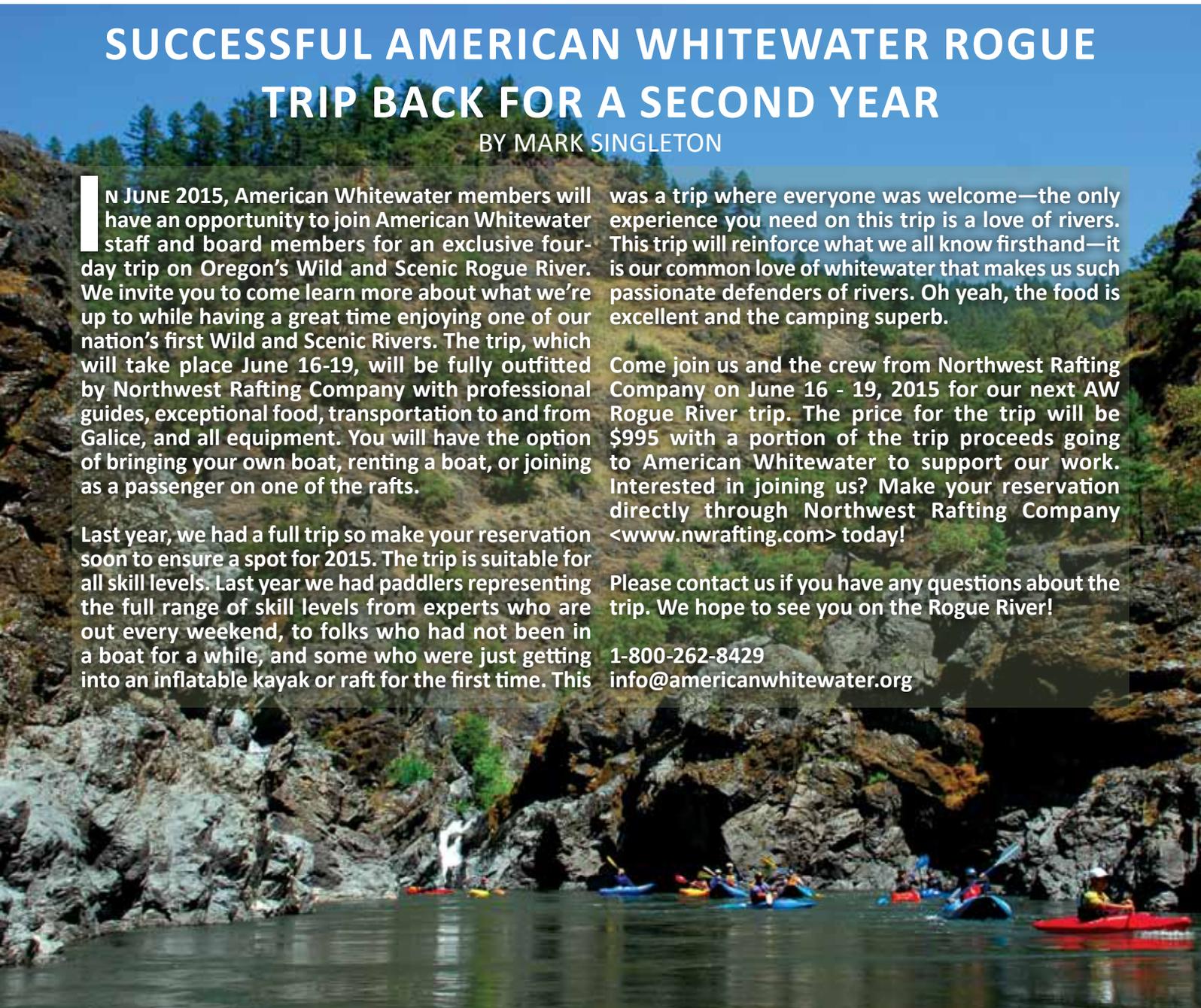
Last year, we had a full trip so make your reservation soon to ensure a spot for 2015. The trip is suitable for all skill levels. Last year we had paddlers representing the full range of skill levels from experts who are out every weekend, to folks who had not been in a boat for a while, and some who were just getting into an inflatable kayak or raft for the first time. This

was a trip where everyone was welcome—the only experience you need on this trip is a love of rivers. This trip will reinforce what we all know firsthand—it is our common love of whitewater that makes us such passionate defenders of rivers. Oh yeah, the food is excellent and the camping superb.

Come join us and the crew from Northwest Rafting Company on June 16 - 19, 2015 for our next AW Rogue River trip. The price for the trip will be \$995 with a portion of the trip proceeds going to American Whitewater to support our work. Interested in joining us? Make your reservation directly through Northwest Rafting Company <www.nwrafting.com> today!

Please contact us if you have any questions about the trip. We hope to see you on the Rogue River!

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A DISASTROUS KAYAK TRIP

BY CAROL JONES

As many readers know, we at the American Whitewater Journal have spent 2014 celebrating AW's 60th anniversary. While it's not technically 2014 anymore, we thought we'd kick off the New Year with a couple of fascinating historical pieces that we just couldn't manage to fit into last year's coverage of the anniversary. Enjoy!

Editor's Note: The following letter, written to a friend by Carol Jones in 1952, relates an attempted descent of the Yampa River through Dinosaur National Monument (CO). The author and her husband, Clyde Jones, decided to attempt this famous section of wild river to explore the then-controversial Echo Park Dam site. Plans to build Echo Park Dam were eventually abandoned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation after conservationists publicized the beauty and archaeological richness of the federally protected lands the dam would have inundated. As former AW Executive Secretary Clyde Jones wrote when he submitted this letter for publication, "It shows how 60 years ago things were more relaxed, when two 25-year-olds could boat a National Parks canyon without a permit and without telling anyone where they were going." His take-away? "Confidence in ignorance, or vice versa?"

CLYDE AND I decided to take a week's vacation in August 1952 to kayak the Yampa River canyons in Dinosaur National Monument during low water levels. We removed the back seat from our two-door Dodge coupe to accommodate the two foldboat bags plus supplies, and headed for Maybell Colorado. We assembled the kayaks and took off in moving water. Soon we began to encounter areas of sand bars, where we had to drag the kayaks until we found enough water to float them. After struggling for several miles, we made a decision to end the trip, as it was many miles to our destination, Echo Park. We dragged the kayaks back



Girl: Carol Jones at the entrance to Yampa Canyons in 1952.

Boy: Clyde Jones, one of American Whitewater's founding members, at the start of the adventure related above.

upstream for some distance. Big black clouds began forming, followed by strong winds, lightning and loud thunder. We quickly emptied supplies and wooden framework out of the foldboat hull. We each crawled into opposite ends of the hull. Loud thunder echoed up the canyon, and torrents of rain followed, and then darkness. We had a long frightening night. At dawn we reloaded and, leaving the kayaks, hiked the road back to the car two miles away. Along the way we noticed several people camping with bed rolls on a small island. We did look a strange sight and they must have wondered what we were doing so far from everywhere.

We crossed two dry gulches before we got to the car. The heavy rain during the night caused flash floods down these gulches. At the first gulch Clyde gunned the engine and barely got across. We got mired down and stuck in the second gulch. We had noticed a phone line at the only ranch in the valley. We felt relieved we could hike there and call for a tow truck. Upon approaching the house a very large dog came charging us, showing his teeth. No tree was nearby to climb, but the dog was just greeting us with his big smile. We asked the rancher if we could use their phone, and found out it only connected to a neighboring ranch. The lady told her husband to go get "Buster." It turned out that "Buster" was a very old truck. To pull us out, he put two lengths of chain together by making a connecting link with a piece of coat hanger. It worked!! The

rancher refused our offer to pay for all their help. On the way home we stopped in Craig and noticed our sleeping bags missing, left behind where we slept.

Two days later we received a letter from the Rinkers of Maybell, who were the ranchers who had helped us. Their relatives that had been camping on the island we passed, had found our two old Army surplus sleeping bags with our name and address and were mailing them to us. We still have their letter. Such honest people who took all the trouble to travel to the rural post office many miles away and send our bags.

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RECOLLECTIONS OF BART HAUTHAWAY

BY VICKY DIADIUK AND TED FIUST



*Bart Hawthaway caught a big one from his little canoe, 1994.
Photo courtesy of Bart Hawthaway*

WHEN WE READ that the *AW Journal* was celebrating its 60th anniversary by looking back at the history of paddling and its major participants, it was clear that it would not be complete without an article on Bart Hawthaway. Bart was not only one of the pioneers of the sport in the U.S. but also had a major influence on the many paddlers he coached and mentored. What follows are a few of our recollections of Bart, a superb paddler, a most interesting person, and a true New England “curmudgeon” who was an important part of the American whitewater saga and of our lives.

Vicky met Bart in the early 1980s through her friend Steve Groves who, after she bought a commercial slalom kayak that Bart later would call the “yellow submarine,” advised her to buy a paddle from Bart so he would invite her to join his pool and pond sessions and thus coach her in paddling technique. Steve grew up paddling canoes in flatwater in Wisconsin, so when he saw whitewater boaters on New England rivers stopping midstream and even going upstream he decided this was something he had to learn to do. After acquiring a used Hawthaway boat, he contacted

Bart and began what would be a long-term friendship.

Ted met Bart in a pool during the winter of 1982. In front of a small store, Ted saw a kayak on top of a car in the middle of winter. So he walked in and asked loudly, “Who owns the kayak outside?” The owner came over and told him that kayakers were practicing in the winter so they would be ready for running the rivers in the spring; she then said, “Follow me to the pool.” There, Ted saw whitewater gates hanging across the pool and heard the booming voice of Bart Hawthaway encouraging kayakers to run the gates better. He was invited to try a boat and was hooked. Ted had been racing whitewater and flatwater canoes for several years. Bart said to someone next to him, “I think he can roll in this one night.” Bart taught Ted to roll—in just about one night.

By this time, Bart was no longer doing serious whitewater because he had a bad back, but he was well known as the maker of elegant, very lightweight kayaks and single-person canoes. From snippets of conversation we had glimpses of Bart’s interesting career. He made a few oblique

references to having been a “photographer in the war” and a commercial fisherman, and after he graduated from Harvard, Bart became interested in the emerging whitewater scene. There were no commercial boats to be had, so Bart started making his own and used them in slalom races in Europe. His kayaks were so well designed and light that other paddlers would buy them out from under him after each race. So, after selling some mold designs to an established canoe company and realizing that nobody could make them as well as he could, he ended up becoming a boat maker. Bart made several types of kayaks as well as semi-closed canoes. He built racing, touring, and surfing kayaks, as well as sea kayaks, including one with an almost-see-through cloth deck that looked like it could fly. Bart took great pride in making specialized kayaks for paddlers with physical disabilities who came to him for advice about how to start boating: they knew that once they got into a boat, they would no longer feel disabled. Visiting Bart’s basement shop, where he built boats one at a time, was a thrill (though the styrene smell was not). He had all the tools, quarter-size models of boats he was designing, large swaths of fiberglass, and tubs of epoxy;

he was always experimenting with new designs or tweaking an old one to make them a little better and lighter. He made a canoe for Ted's wife that weighed only 20 pounds. All his work was in fiberglass and he was very proud of being able to keep the weight down to match what most designers created in Kevlar. Around Bart, there was a pervasive sense of creativity; the pleasure he derived from coming up with a way to make an even lighter boat was contagious. Hawthaway boats are marvels of design—Steve Jobs would've liked them.

Buying a boat from Bart was a bit of a test of character, since it was not a matter of deciding what boat you wanted and ordering it; Bart would choose a boat that he thought was suitable for you, based on your size and intended use. For example, Bart deemed that Vicky's dog, Beau, was too heavy to sit in the front of a little canoe (it would "spoil the line"), so she had to ask Bart to make one for her sister, who, with Bart's okay could, once in a while, lend it to Beau. Furthermore, Bart would refuse to sell you any boat unless he thought you would respect it and were really serious about paddling it well, so you had to commit to attending his pool and/or pond sessions. He wanted to make sure his boats would always be paddled skillfully. His lessons were always free, so he could tell you to go away if he decided you didn't deserve his instruction. Given all this, you'd think he wouldn't have too many customers, but the lead time for purchasing one of his boats was several months, and not only because he built them by hand.

Bart built his own house in Weston, Massachusetts; his yard had a jam-packed mold shed and a rolling pool. It was just four feet deep and had sloping sides. Across the top were wires that held the gates. This way he could practice right outside his back door. In his competition days, he set a time goal for himself each day, and would practice running the gates until he reached that goal, even if it meant repeating until dark.



The U.S. Team, circa 1960

Top Row

- 1- Bart Hawthaway, Team Rigger
- 2- John Rielly, Team Manager
- 3- Dave Kurtz, C1 Coach
- 4- ?
- 5- Mark Fawcett, C2-m SL (w Gale Gruss)
- 6- Eric Evans, K1 SL
- 7- ? (partially obscured)
- 8- ?
- 9- Al Chase, C1 WW
- 10- Les Bechdel, K1 SL
- 11- Bill Endicott, C2 SL (w Brad Hager) (partially obscured)
- 12- Tom Southworth, C2-m SL (w Nancy Abrams)
- 13- Brad Hager, C2 SL (w Bill Endicott)
- 14- Jim Holland, K1 SL
- 15- John Bryson, C2 WW (w John Hummel)
- 16- John Hummel, C2 WW (w John

- Bryson)
- 17- Jimmy Holcomb, C1 SL
- 18- John Burrow, C1 SL
- 19- Tom Johnson, C1 WW (?); C1 WW Coach (?)
- 20- Chuck Lyda, C2 WW (w Ben)
- 21- ?, C1 WW
- 22- Ben, C2 WW (w Chuck Lyda)
- 23- ? C2-m SL (w Louise)
- 24- Dave Nuzz (?), K1 SL
- 25- John Connell (?), C2 Coach
- 26- Jay Evans, Team Coach

Bottom Row

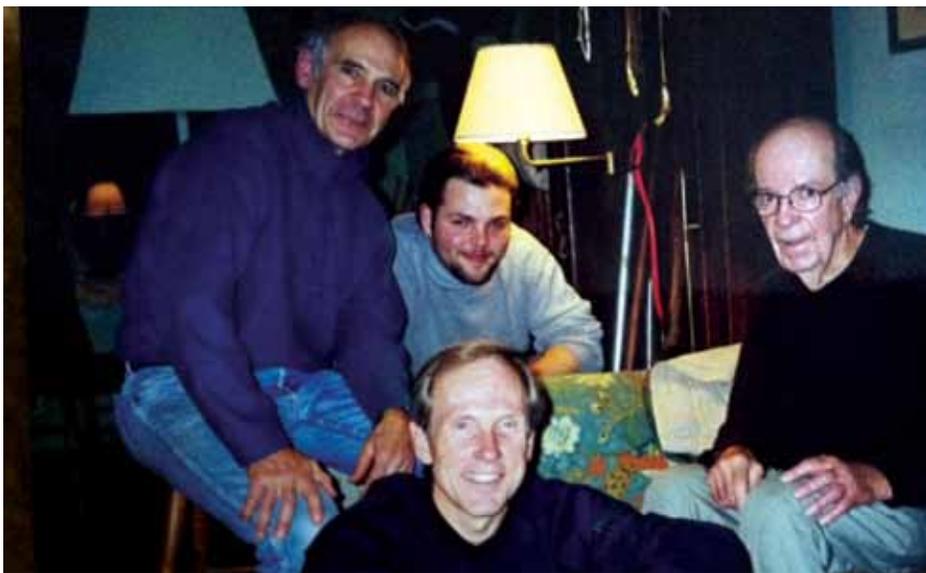
- 1- Gale Gruss, C2-m SL (w Mark Fawcett)
- 2- Lucy Morehouse, K1 SL
- 3- Nancy Abrams, C2-m SL (w Tom Southworth)
- 4- Peggy Nutt, K1 SL
- 5- Louise, C2-m SL (w #23 ?)

Photo courtesy of Bart Hawthaway, Team Member identifications by Les Bechdel in 2004

Being active at the very beginning of the sport, Bart knew Milo Duffek, Hermann Kerckhoff, Stu Coffin, Barb Wright, and Walt Blackadar. Each one of these folks, as befits pioneers, had fairly strong opinions about each other and about the direction in which paddling should go. Hearing Bart talk in his no-nonsense way about these great paddlers was definitely refreshing. Bart was always in favor of elegant, smooth

paddling and had little respect for other styles. He made sure all his students could run English gates perfectly. If you couldn't do them right in a pond or pool, why on earth would you think you could paddle a boat in whitewater? He could do full gates, with rolls, in about 60 seconds, with a grace like ballet. Bart was a "virtuoso playing a kayak" (see Gail Ferris' video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pj5q8EsuMV0>).

HISTORY



Bart's birthday 11/8/2000: Steve Groves, Jay Brasch, Bart Hawthaway, Ted Fiust.
Photo by Vicky Diadiuk

He emphasized beauty, precision, and smoothness of the paddle and kayak movement over strength. He truly looked effortless when he paddled.

Bart could do many types of rolls, and expected you to do at least one flawlessly, on both sides. He would work with you until you got it—as long as you would listen to him. However, if your learning style did not match his teaching style (for example, if you had to visualize what you would be doing under water before doing it), the old curmudgeon in him would surface and soon you'd be in tears, with no hope of rolling that session. Nevertheless, if you stuck with him when he said, "Assume your position," and you flipped, soon you'd be rolling beautifully with barely a splash. It was easy to see why he'd been successful in the late 1960s with the U.S. team in which Les Bechdel, Bill Endicott, and many other great paddlers competed. He had a later encounter with a world-class paddler when Bruce Lessels, fresh from his medal wins in the 1987 World Championship but retiring from competition, was roaming around in the Boston area figuring out what he would do next (this was before the Deerfield River dam releases, which enabled him to start Zoar Outdoor, were negotiated). Bruce

called Bart to ask if he could come to the winter pool sessions and characteristically Bart asked him, "Are you any good?" to which Bruce replied, "I'm ok." For Bart's students, watching Bart and Bruce do gates (let alone joining them at it) was a highlight of our paddling experience. Bart was very proud of the fact that he was, to a large degree, able to "live off the land."

He planted a garden and bow hunted for deer, goose, and turkey in season (and local cops gave him road kill). His Rushton-style canoes were made for fishing; in his words, "A good keeper striped bass weighs more than my boat." Or they could be used for "hauling a deer shot on an island to the mainland." He claimed that he had not bought meat in over 20 years. He also did a lot of clamming. When he was through with the shells, he would throw them out onto his driveway; over the years his driveway was literally paved with shells. However, he also liked pizza, and for that he relied on his friends and students to "surprise" him on his birthdays. It was great fun to listen to his many paddling and wildlife stories and to get his comments about our own, somewhat piddly, whitewater adventures.

Bart kept paddling and "messing around in boats" until the day he went into the hospital for the last time. By then he was tired of being a "professional patient" who had to restrict himself to making little canoes because he couldn't reach far enough to glue the kayak endpoints. He died like he lived: on his own terms. In a memorial service led by his niece, Ellen, there was a great gathering of his students, all on Hawthaway boats, to scatter his ashes in the waters of his favorite Cape Cod beach. Bart acted with a tough exterior, but he had a heart of gold. He was like a good French bread with a crusty exterior but a soft and wonderful inside. Every time we get into our Hawthaway boats, we think of him and, when we expect graceful English gates from the new generation of paddlers we teach, we ensure that Bart's legacy continues.

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HOW I GOT STARTED

GROWING UP ON THE GAULEY

BY SHANE GROVES



*The author at Woods Ferry on the Lower Gauley.
Photo courtesy of Whitewater Photography,
Fayetteville, WV*

I GREW UP IN Nettie, West Virginia, a small town of hard-working folks on the 2,600-foot mountain plateau above the Gauley. This is not the raging Gauley River most paddlers are familiar with, but the boulder strewn, Class II-III stretch above Summersville Lake. To my brother and I as we grew up, the Gauley was just another river like any other in a state filled with them. My older brother, Jeremy, and I, along with my young parents, wound up living on my great-grandfather's land, a spread of rolling fields and forest. Originally from Beckley, beside the New River, Great Grandpa Roark, like his father before him, was a superintendent for a coal mine. In fact, most of my great-great-grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and grandfathers were coal miners, all of whom worked, lived, married, and raised families along the valleys of the New and Gauley Rivers.

Raised on these hillsides, my parents' families had tight wallets while suffering the hard times of the boom-or-bust coal industry. Mom and Dad wanted nothing to do with that life. They were precariously similar, drawn to spontaneity, and escaped those hard times by marrying young and having children. Our family didn't have a nice home with many of the necessities of

a secure, stable family. We just had a lot of fun. Mom and Dad lived life in the fast lane, except we lived on Nettie Mountain.

Tucked away on my father's family farm, my brother Jeremy and I had a limitless supply of adventure at our doorstep and our parents made sure we had the toys to enjoy it. We rode four-wheelers and had shotguns. We carried knives and bows covered in camouflage. Our fruit scattered fields of summertime were covered with snowdrifts for winter sledding. We cut down all the trees we wanted with our machetes and built forts in the rhododendron. We made fires in the forest caves and dug for arrowheads. Just a short drive over the mountain, we would swim on the Gauley, Cherry, or Cranberry. Creeks and ponds were all around us and we couldn't stay out of them. We spent our childhood exploring our backyard.

My great-grandfather died when I was 10 and his children sold his land for profit. Mom and Dad inherited our five-acre slice. We watched the rest eventually get subdivided and sold off. Over the next few years, houses popped up through the fields, our forests were logged, and the

land Jeremy and I once conquered was gone forever.

As my brother and I became teenagers we dreamed of adventure. In the summer of 1995 I turned 13. I was anticipating junior high school when we heard word that the railroad tracks on the Gauley, starting at the abandoned mining town of Marybill, were being pulled up. This created a road that allowed vehicles to travel the distance of the river.

The river was where we now went. Only a short drive over the mountain, we had miles to explore. We found pool after pool to swim and fish in, with beaches to camp on. We wore the river out until the seasons changed and I went to junior high.

Going through the motions of school, playing sports to pass the time, we both wrestled, fighting through the winter. School let out for summer and we were planning on playing football, with practice only a few weeks away. It just seemed like the thing to do. That was what the cool kids did—played sports on teams with cocky coaches. But we started going to the river again.

Wonderful news came that the land along the Gauley was going to be subdivided and auctioned. My family on my Mom's side banded together and we wound up with one of the lots along the river. We bought the prime lot with large sandy beaches that had been the local hang-out for many years.

Jeremy, almost three years my senior, got a pickup truck. I tagged along, hanging with Sam and John Hess, two of his buds from high school. We spent the summer camping on the banks of the Gauley, walking the shallow summer flows in ragged sandals, and fishing and swimming. Spending our nights beside a campfire, we goofed off doing what teenagers do. Our motto was, "What happens on the river stays on the river," as we went looking for excitement. We would walk the abandoned mining sites, pillaging and plundering the once-bustling community. Car tire inner tubes were sold at the local gas station on top of the mountain and we used these to ride the rapids. We even tried to run Panther Creek, a tributary of the Gauley, after a big rain but we ended up walking off with busted tubes and bruised knees.

As football season came we couldn't leave the river and we didn't make it to practice. We were stuck there, finding our place on the banks of the Gauley. Playing football was the last thing we wanted to do.

Uncle Terry "Bear" Moore, the youngest of my mom's five siblings, was a raft guide, rock climber, mountain biker, and kayaker. He worked at one of the local rafting companies and taught kayak clinics. We knew little of his adventures but kept seeing him take clinics past our camp. He saw our enthusiasm and offered to teach us how to paddle. My brother was gung ho, but I was less excited. I was quite happy chilling

Jeremy Groves exploring Woods Ferry.
Photo courtesy of Whitewater Photography, Fayetteville, WV

out by the river and didn't know what to think of kayaks. No one I knew paddled. It was not talked about or advertised; it had no place in my worldview or that of anyone I knew.

The next week, early on an August day, we found ourselves paddling in Summersville Lake. First, we put on our skirts and wet exited. I paddled in circles, unable to keep the bow of my New Wave Mongoose in front of me. We played games and pushed each other off the boat pier, mesmerized by the water displaced over our submerged bows as they resurfaced. Sweep, Duffek, draw, brace, and back stroke. It was a rush of information but Bear was a master instructor. He conveyed the trials and tribulations of a beginner with conviction and tact. His every word hung in the air and our young minds picked up on every nuance. The climax of the day was the roll and t-rescue. I was hooked!

The next day we paddled our section the Gauley. It had a name—the Top Gauley. Putting in at Curtain Bridge, I was the first to flip over and swim because I hit an eddy line in the very first rapid. This

inconspicuous strip of current we had waded through and fished all summer became the key ingredient in kayaking. We were at the mercy of the river as holes, waves, hydraulics, boils, and pillows took shape in our minds. Bear was sure to scare us, describing what would happen if we went into an undercut or strainer. We were certain not to make a mistake because we took him seriously; our parents often gave us dangerous toys but warned us of their nature.

Jeremy flipped for the first time while trying to ferry but he rolled up. I flipped several more times that day and swam, but I was used to being the slow one. Always creative and imaginative, I collected comic books and daydreamed while Jeremy was an all-star athlete sought after by girls and coaches from every sport.

As fall set in and it got too cold to swim, we started back for another year of wandering the halls of Nicholas County Schools, but this year was different. I had a dream to become a paddler. Our parents bought us matching turquoise Corsica "S"s the day of Gauley Fest. Gauley Fest, another world, was held



HOW I GOT STARTED



One of the author's mom's only runs down the river, on the Upper New.
Photo courtesy of Whitewater Photography, Fayetteville, WV

at Memorial Park, the very same place I grew up playing baseball and attending family reunions. It was transformed into a blur of boats and people, strange people. Gauley Fest is said to be the largest kayak festival in the world but I had no idea such an event existed. I was out of my element as I walked the festival grounds collecting magazines and stickers.

That winter I spent reading the same magazines over and over, watching kayaking videos, and daydreaming of getting back on the river. *Falling Down*, a digital bible of West Virginia paddling, found its way into our home. It is the greatest kayak video ever made, filled with cartwheels and waterfall drops performed by a motley crew of misfits and showoffs set to a soundtrack of funky tunes. BJ Johnson, Clay Wright, and Tracy Clapp, to name a few, were my new heroes.

That spring we paddled exclusively on the Top Gauley and Cherry Rivers, which are filled with distinct Class III rapids with deep, crisp eddies, perfect for a beginner to practice. We maximized our small rivers by ferrying and catching every eddy. With every rain the river changed as rocks turned

Shane Groves catching an ender at Rocky Top on the Lower Gauley.
Photo by Jeremy Groves

into waves and holes. We had no one to critique us, no right or wrong way to do things. We just had fun. If we swam we didn't think anything of it. If we flipped 30 times it was fun to try to roll back up. The river was whatever we made it.

Bear then took us all the way to the Middle Gauley to paddle. This was a big deal to travel across Nicholas County to run a new section of whitewater. These rapids required more skill, precision, and self-awareness. Bear explained that this section was used for rafting all season long. I knew rafts existed but I had never actually seen

one on the water. So when Whitewater Photography took our picture as we busted through the big hole in Woods Ferry and had the photo ready for us by the time we got to Fayetteville, I felt like a real hotshot.

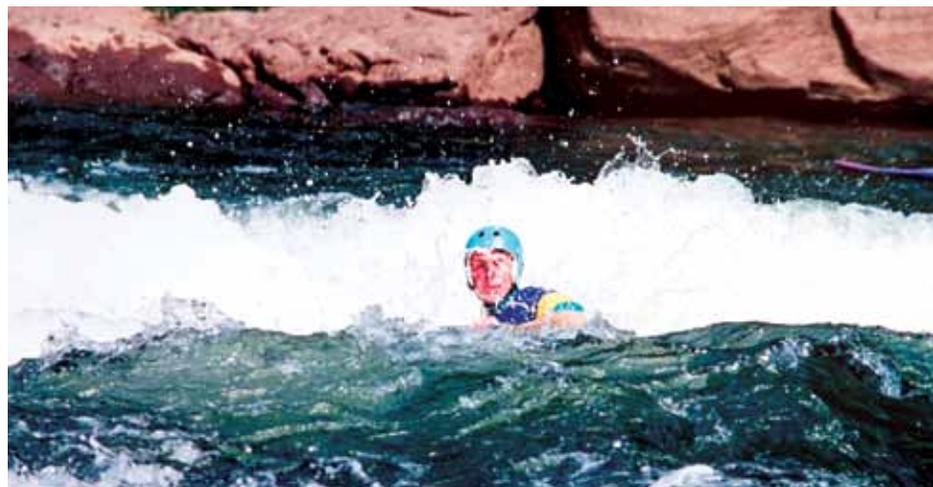
School ended and the rivers started to drop. Bear warned us that the Gauley could get too low. This really bummed me out. He then cheered me up by informing us that the New River never gets too low and has big waves. We mastered our rolls and set off to the New for a summer of big-water paddling.

By the end of the summer we had worn out the Upper New and moved on to the pulsing currents of the Lower New. We tagged along with locals John Esker, Rick Baker, Nate Freier, and George Rogers, to name a few, all video boaters at least 10 years my senior. I was barely a teenager crammed into a shuttle vehicle full of laughing men blaring loud music, telling joke after joke and playfully bantering. The ride to the river was a party on wheels. They would see how far they could push us as we took on whatever rapid, hole, boof, or eddy they could throw at us. We often surprised or even surpassed them with our newly formed skills that we had been honing on the Top Gauley.



Jeremy and I demoed all the new play boats like the Vertigo, Stubby, and Blade from Stark Moon, the hottest kayak shop that ever existed. Summer was almost over and we now paddled the New by ourselves. We came to Ender Waves at a perfect level forming a steep, fluffy hole. I recognized it from Falling Down. With an eddy full of video boaters gawking at us in matching Pro-Tec helmets and gear, we jumped in, ride after ride, and got worked. I loved it. I would just dive my bow into the steep green water to see what happened. Jeremy swears I did a front flip while all the video boaters looked at each other like, "How did he do that?"

That Gauley Season we paddled the Lower every weekend. Our parents set our shuttle most every time. They enjoyed the scene. Why wouldn't they? It sure beat sitting around at baseball practice. Dad got to laugh and joke with like-minded individuals as they lounged in the take-out field celebrating a good day on the water. My young mom got hit on by many of the paddlers as she sun bathed next to the river. The Lower had miles of rapids, people, and play spots there for the taking. Koontz Flume was a massive runway of current with large holes and undercuts on either side. Pure Screaming Hell was a giant hole that we avoided at all costs. Upper



Jeremy Groves deep in a surf at Koontz's Flume on the Lower Gauley.
Photo courtesy of Whitewater Photography, Fayetteville, WV

Mash had a boof to fly off of while Lower Mash had a giant wave hole to get worked in. Upper and Lower Staircase were filled with New River-sized waves. Every rapid had a difficult eddy or ferry like the Top Gauley on steroids. My folks scraped up enough money to buy us play boats, the New Wave Strobe, and we surfed our brains out and until our hands were blistered.

Catching and establishing a front surf on Diagonal Ledges was a moment I will never forget. All I could focus on was a rainbow formed by the spray coming off my bow. Locked in, I ruddered from side to side, until

a raft creamed me and I was stuck under it upside down. Using my paddle to pry against the bottom of the raft, I shimmied off and rolled up to catch the eddy full of paddlers. I don't think they knew what to think of me.

We quickly learned to cartwheel. Jeremy was the first to link four ends at Junkyard because he is a righty. Bam, bam, bam, end after end, just like in the videos. I, however, was the first to link two ends by accident at Rocky Top and spent hours each day perfecting my lefty cartwheel.

Our paddling styles reflected our personalities. Once I was comfortable on a river, I would throw myself into it and experiment with the water. Eventually I learned its character to create a win-win situation where the water and I were as one. Jeremy, on the other hand, was older and stronger at utilizing explosive strokes. Each motion of his body contributed speed and momentum. Laughing, gritting his teeth, focusing as he forced his way, gliding across the current, he rarely made a mistake. He was more timid, leery of my out-of-control style, but a much stronger paddler than I.

Jeremy Groves getting vertical at Junkyard on the Lower Gauley.
Photo by Shane Groves



HOW I GOT STARTED



(From left: Jeremy, Uncle Bear, and Shane.
Photo by Rob Groves)

Jeremy was already an all-star athlete who played multiple sports but could care less about his reputation. He saw the river as a place to get away from the limelight, to hide and just have fun without competition. I had never experienced success in any sport, was always riding the coattails of my older brother, unable to stand out amongst my classmates. My dream of becoming a paddler now grew into passion to master the currents. We were away from the mainstream, the only kayakers in our schools able to do things the way we wanted, unattached to the norms of our community.

We ended our Gauley season on the mighty Upper Gauley. It was everything we expected and more. Every paddler looked like a high profile pro straight from the magazines. Uncle Bear led us downriver with the same conviction and skill he used to first teach us one year before. We styled it. Insignificant was a must-make move that involved inching by a huge pour over. At Pillow Rock we followed Bear's instructions to stay in the center until passing Inertia, then we charged right into the eddy. It was a total whiteout. I had not yet felt power like that.

Clay Wright, a star in *Falling Down*, paddled by us at the confluence of the Meadow

River. So I was star-struck going into Lost Paddle. It was long and demanding with Second Drop that could tear your face off. Iron Ring was straightforward, but big and scary. Sweets Falls was a breeze after we made it through the rest of the river. Catching the eddy below Sweets, I realized we had done it. The Upper G was under our belts. We wrapped up our first year of paddling. But with a river that complex, it was sure to be the first of many runs.

As winter came, Mom recalled Dinver McClure at Stark Moon gave her store credit so she could buy us the expensive winter gear we needed to continue our quest. We paddled all winter and discovered the never-ending supply of rivers in our backyard.

That is my story. My brother and I happened to be surrounded by the best whitewater in the world when we got caught up in the frenzy as paddling grew to its greatest popularity during the late '90s. Our progression was natural. All the forces in my life flowed together to create a perfect scenario, a fluid motion, a wave that I have ridden ever since.

That year with my brother was my best year of paddling. Mastering each skill, we learned as if our lives depended on it, only

to find another river over the mountain requiring a whole new set of skills to master. Never getting in over our heads, we grew proficient on each section until moving to the next. My parents supported us every step of the way as we brothers had each other's back. We made perfect paddling companions.

After 17 years, I am still hard at it. Paddling has been my way of making my dreams a reality, a way of discovering the mystery that lies hidden all around me. The possibility of tricks, runs, waves, and boat designs becomes real in the hills of West Virginia. Life would not be the same without the deep currents of the New and Gauley and the micro creeks that flow into them. With every rain the rivers of West Virginia offer an endless supply of wonder and adventure. After all, it is almost heaven.

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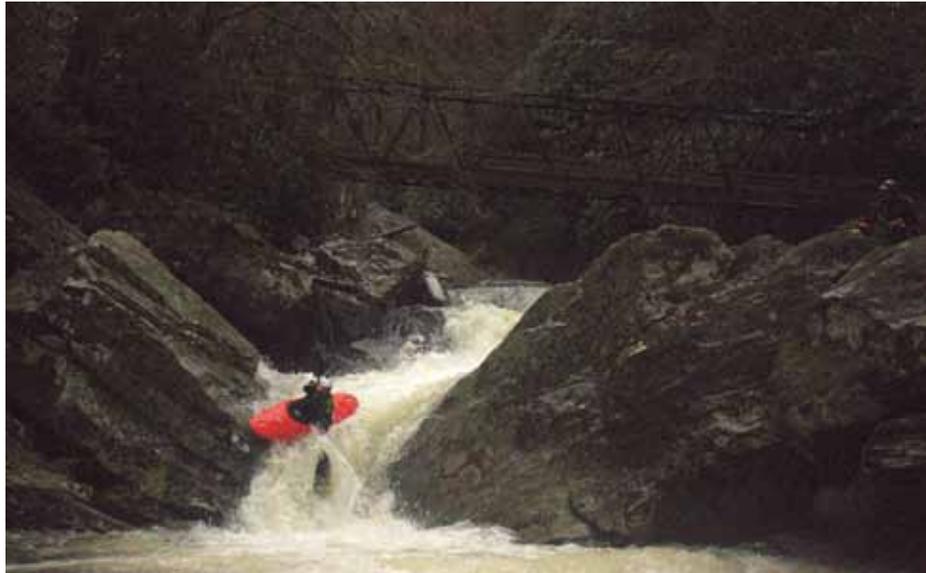
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THE UPPER RAVEN FORK BASIN – SUFFERING AS A GIFT, BY WAY OF OUR GEOLOGIC PAST

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KIRK EDDLEMON



Sam Ovetz dropping into the stout, more commonly paddled section of the Upper Raven Fork.

IT WAS CERTAINLY dark. We had been pushing our bodies for a grueling 11 hours, and while the abandoned rail grade that led out of the depths of the Raven Fork Gorge and to the sanctuary of our car lay some scant 200 yards from our rocky post, what was in between had a ghastly effect on our morale. We were on the wrong side of a steep slope littered with massive boulders, a gargantuan pile of crumbs remaining from eons of erosion and landslides. The night swallowed the meager light that beamed from our headlamps, leaving us to amble, mostly by feel, up and over boulders that moaned with the low-frequency buzz of instability. This stretch was daunting in the light of day, but seemed impossible in the growing darkness. Nevertheless, we heaved our 50-pound kayaks onto our shoulders and suffered one step at a time. As a rock shifted beneath my right foot, I spun round and dropped to my knees, my headlamp flashing across the strange geology of a boulder I had almost just smashed my chin on. The rock contained shiny, intriguing, elliptical formations called “augens,” derived from the German word for eye, which these

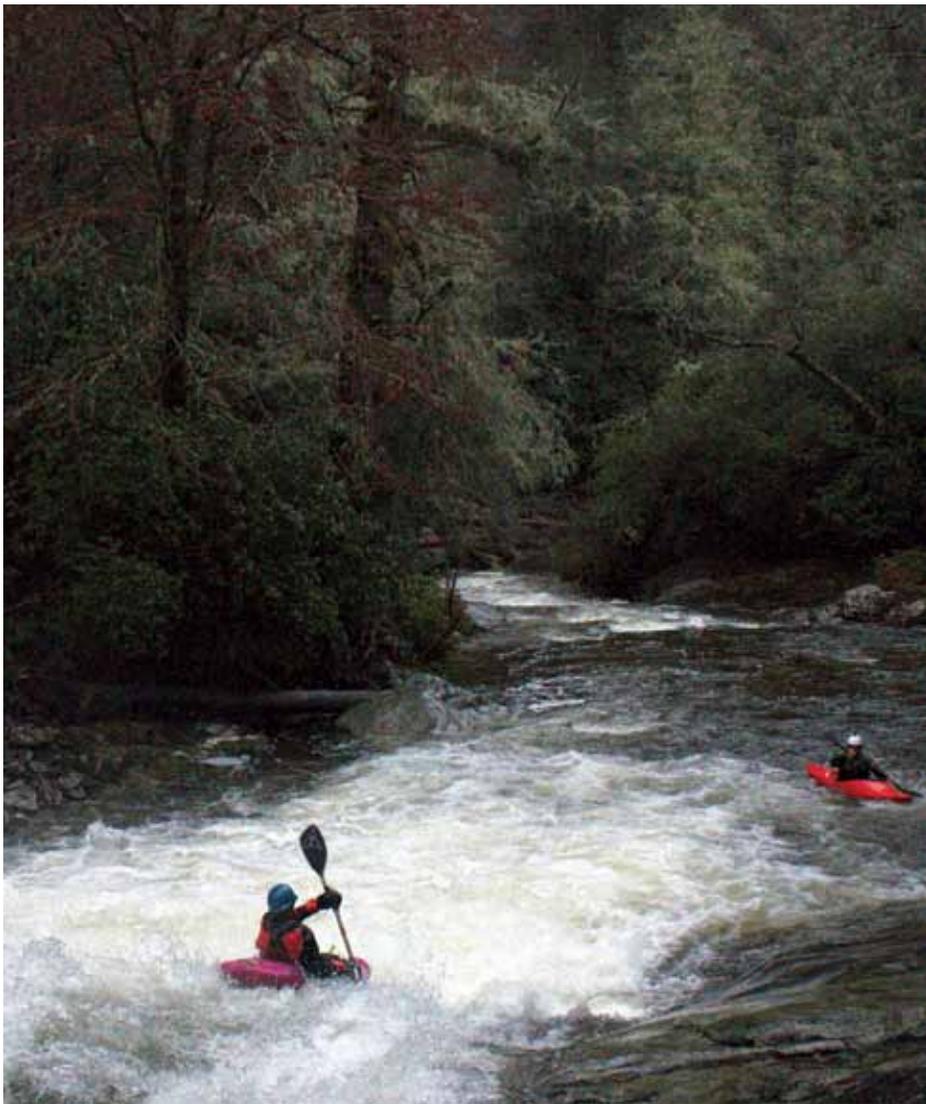
features resemble. This particular rock is some of the oldest in the Smokies, and as I paused for a breath, I pondered the idea that in a sense, this rock was the reason we were right here, right now, crawling in the dark.

A majority of the rocks in the Smokies were at one time sedimentary, composed of silt, sand, and small pebbles that washed down from an ancient mountain range that looked much different from the low, weathered mountains seen by millions of tourists who visit Great Smoky Mountains National Park each year. These layers were folded, compressed, and thrust upward in response to global tectonic forces, forming the Appalachians. Most of this occurred roughly 300-400 million years ago. However, in the Raven Fork and a few other spots in the southeastern corner of the park, the Grenville Basement — a layer of rock more than 1 billion years old that pre-dates the Appalachian Mountains — rises to the surface, forming a massive snarl of twisted, metamorphosed granite (rock formed from magma that has been deformed by mountain building) that

imposes a staggering obstacle to the upper reaches of the Raven Fork as it carves its way to the lower elevations of the park. It is this geologic anomaly that has helped make the Upper Raven Fork Basin the untrammled high-altitude valley that it is today, and that made for such tough going for the few whitewater kayakers who chose to explore the river that runs through it.

We weren't the first ones to falter in the face of this formidable landslide. This place has a long-established history of denying the most earnest of travelers. Soon after gold was found on Cherokee lands in the 1820s, the entire Cherokee Nation was evicted to Oklahoma in what became known as the Trail of Tears. Only a number of Cherokee resisted, stealing away into the remote reaches of the Smokies. The Upper Raven Fork Basin served as a most worthy hideout, as the great difficulty of penetrating its rock-and-rhododendron fortress proved too much for the white men and their campaign to remove the Cherokee. Those who survived preserved the rightful inhabitation of this region as the Eastern Band of the Cherokee.

CREEKING



Steve Krajewski and Sam Overt winding deeper into the upper gorge.

This very landslide stymied even the exploitative progress of the early 20th century. At the height of the logging industry's assault on the Smokies, the ridges and mountaintops of our beloved park were bare and mostly devoid of forest cover. Logging roads snaked up every drainage in the park, serving as arteries from which to extract anything of worth for use in the valleys below. This landslide temporarily denied the loggers' efforts, though, delaying the development of a rail grade into the Upper Raven Fork Basin for just long enough until the National Park could be established in 1934. Since the

roughly 13,000 acres of the Upper Raven Fork Basin above this point never saw an axe, there is nary a more magnificent stage in the park from which to view giant red spruce, hemlock, and other impressive trees. Containing the National Champion red spruce and what are certain to be untold numbers of stately specimens in excess of 140–150 feet in height, this wet, elevated basin is home to an archetypal pristine temperate rainforest.

When I got into whitewater kayaking, I spent years focused on finding challenging whitewater for its own sake. After all,

dancing in harmony with the flow of a river is certainly a worthy end. As I furthered my experience in the Southern Appalachians, though, I began to distill my preferences to streams that were as untouched as possible. The dance became merely a means through which to have a high-quality wilderness experience. While I've scoured our southern drainages with a fine-toothed comb and spent 15 years being at the right place at the right time, and lived quite a few exciting and deeply rewarding days to my dedication's credit, hiking into the headwaters of the Raven Fork and paddling through its remarkable high basin is the regional culmination of all my experience and desires.

Having made the decision to put ourselves in this situation, I couldn't get too upset when Steve Krajewski, who on any other day relishes these types of adventures, looked over at me with the hollow, "thousand-yard stare," and with much labor, muttered, "I hate you Kirk." I understood how he felt.

I was running on empty. As only the purest mission could require, catching this run without being overcome by darkness requires ambition. Intending to make an alpine start, we had left Knoxville in the pre-dawn hours and driven through driving rain over Newfound Gap and into Cherokee. Once at the Raven Fork, we found the top of the gauge buried deep under the churning bronze elixir that only rages through the Smokies after the stoutest of storms, as well as Sam Overt — a vibrant river-connoisseur — locked and loaded to walk the trail less travelled.

After dropping Sam's rig at the normal hike-in trail for the gorge, we loaded into Steve's car and crept up the Straight Fork Valley to where the road departs eastward over Balsam Mountain. At Beech Gap Trailhead, we sorted our gear before embarking on what was certain to be the toughest hike with a boat I'd ever done in the Southeast. Gaining 2000 feet over 2.8 miles, followed by a mile of only moderate climbing and then a half-mile drop of 500 feet through

rhododendron slicks to our put-in, our carry was the equivalent of hiking out of the Linville Gorge twice in a row, followed by a comparatively easy mile buffeted by high winds, before essentially doing the hike into the Green Narrows — but twice as steep and without a trail. Our boats, food, and gear weighed in at a lean 70 pounds, and after three punishing hours we made it to the Right Fork of the Raven Fork — the most remote spot I've slid my boat into, at least in this quadrant of the country.

We scraped and wheel-chaired a grueling mile down this beautiful tributary, both enamored with the rich sense of wilderness and reeling because we hadn't even hit the good water, despite being already spent after hours of pushing our bodies. After too much bone-zoning and several portages of old-growth log jams, we finally reached Three Forks: the hallowed meeting of the upper branches of the Raven Fork, which resemble in map view a crow's foot, and in my own personal, metaphysical terms, the spiritual center of the Smokies.

At this point we had been on the go for five hours. At 4,200 feet elevation we were in one of the hardest spots to access on the East Coast. Before us lay a six-mile Southern Appalachian sanctuary — a creek that, other than a few runs last year, hadn't seen a kayaker since 2006 when a friend and I made the first descent. Living in the Southeast, there are lots of casual, convenient opportunities to sample the highest-quality steep creeking on the planet. High-water laps on Bear Creek in Georgia, Triple Crowning the Green, and ricocheting down the West Prong of the Little Pigeon are all on the short list. For all their glory, though, these runs require little exertion beyond getting in a car, parking, donning your gear, and peeling out. The technical ability required is high, but unless you blow it or find an ill-placed tree when you least expect it, you'll come out feeling like a rock star.

Sam Ovett on an early drop.

There was no feeling like a rock star at Three Forks. If we wanted to paddle the most remote stream around, by very design the geography would require a complete teardown of our hubris and emotional fortitude. Sometimes the best way to value a moment is to plummet to the depths, owned by your own weakness, totaled by exhaustion and pain. Wallowing in your powerlessness, it hits you that she is stronger than we. To embrace this fleeting sense of vulnerability not with shame, but with gratitude, is to give a nod to the larger truth beyond our own insignificance — to feel the brutal, cold truth of what was before, and certainly will be here long after us: nature in all her indifference. While humankind becomes more emergent and connected, more globalized, do we as individuals lose our ability to feel truly connected to anything? I've never felt more connected than when I've been in these states of defeat. There's no winning, no sense of self at all. Just an appreciation to be breathing, taking it in, knowing it's more powerful, and allowing yourself to be overtaken and feel small. All of our "problems," all of the things we waste our energy on, mean nothing. And

with such a vast universe, how could it really be any other way?

Now, it's not practical to think like this all the time. It doesn't pay the bills, and only makes for good late-night conversation every once in a while. And it certainly wasn't going to permit me safe passage through the next six miles of serious whitewater. Placing the revelry aside, or perhaps simply channeling it into a more utilitarian brand of stoke, we charged downstream, picking off a few miles of open paddling, taking in the massive old-growth forest but still aiming for "out before dark."

This section of the Raven Fork reminds me of Ravel's classical piece Bolero. The song is basically one giant climax, starting meek and mild — minimal, but to an almost unnoticeably gradual cadence — building into a powerhouse of rhythm and raw sound. And so it was with the river. Class II quickly became Class III, and as the river entered a steep-walled inner trough through the middle of the broad Upper Raven Fork Basin, Class IV drops began popping up here and there. The pace quickened, turning to stacked up



CREEKING



Steve Krajewski dropping into the Right Fork.

Class IV–IV+ fraught with horizon lines and blind, boulder-choked turns. Boat scouting soon evolved into quick bank scouts, then to extended forays through the thick understory to piece together multi-staged series of drops. We were in our element, and like a trip to the local buffet line, we knew we had lots of tasty food on our plate, but that it also might be a little much for one sitting. One bite at a time, though, we descended, focused on every vivid detail, no thinking — just doing, when humans are at their best.

After three hours, we reached a footbridge for the Enloe Creek Trail and a campsite — the first spot since getting in our boats that was accessible from the outside world. After startling some bewildered backpackers with our unwieldy multi-colored missiles, we began to tackle the next mile, which we knew would step up to solid Class V. As much as it pained us, our pace slowed considerably, with the group acknowledgement that a mistake near the end was still a mistake. The level at this point was pretty high, since we had close to two feet more water than is normal for this section. By now I could see the apathy in Steve's eyes, and started working double-time, pouring my effort into scouting for

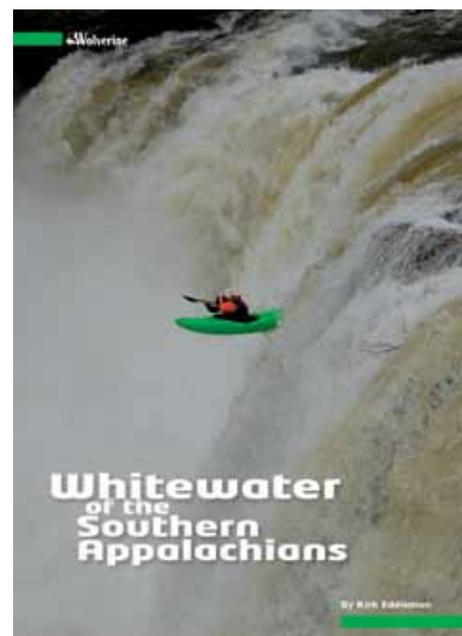
and routing the group, and accelerating the play-by-play as much as possible. After more Class V action, we made it to the top of the normal Raven Fork Gorge run. Now it was just a matter of more hiking!

We were physically wrecked. Chafed, sore, and broken, we spent two more hours working across the landslide and walking the mile and a half down to the car, where dry clothes waited. In a way, a part of me wished it wasn't so difficult to experience the river this way. Some of the best wilderness paddling trips in the area are, after all, pretty easy to sort out. But then again, if the headwaters of the Raven Fork were easy, it wouldn't be what it is. This place is, ultimately due to its geologic past, simply difficult. In dealing with its difficulty, we had gained a sense of its power — the power that has kept it out of the grasp of mankind, even if just for a little while; the power that, if we allowed it to, would put us in our place, just as it had done to those who had come before.

A hopeless river-soul, Kirk Eddlemon has spent much of his life chasing water through the Southern Appalachians. His love for the region and his desire to share the wonderful paddling opportunities that are available

there has led him to write a comprehensive whitewater guide titled Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians, which he hopes will inspire future paddlers to get out there and experience the magic that is in their backyards.

The guide will consist of two volumes, Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians: Volume 1 - The Plateau, and Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians: Volume 2 - The Mountains. Together, the two guides will cover over 350 runs in seven states, and will be packed to the gills with beautiful full page color photos, custom made maps, and stories from many of the top writers in whitewater. Well known in the community for his familiarity with even the smallest, most out-of-the-way ditches, Kirk brings to the table his vast catalogue of river knowledge and also provides his expertise on understanding rainfall and predicting flows based on the tools and resources that are available to paddlers in the digital age. The logistical and practical information, as well as the quantitative characterizations found in this guide, will set a new standard in guidebook production. Copies of both volumes of Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians are available at www.southernapps.com right now!



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MENTAL GAME

CALCULATED, COURAGEOUS, OR CRAZY?

BY TOM LEGERE



The location is Ginnie Springs in North Florida. It is a beautiful natural spring with tens of thousands of feet of submerged cave passages.
Photo courtesy of Jill Heinerth

IMAGINE MOST WHITEWATER junkies are like me when they stumble across an interview with some paddler or other thrill seeker who is up to something bigger, scarier, or more full-on than what they spend their own weekends doing. It's exciting, invigorating, and inspiring to hear of other people's super-charged adventures, but most of all, it's comforting. After all, we think, if they push the limits that hard and come through it with a smile on their faces and a great story to tell, what the rest of us do must be relatively safe and somewhat sane.

While plodding away at my Monday-to-Friday job the other day I happened to catch an interview that was promoted as being about "one of the world's most dangerous sports." Nothing better than having something like that to listen to as I crunched away at a spreadsheet, and just the thing to convince me, on the verge of another season of paddling whitewater, that what I do in my spare time isn't really all that sketchy.

The interview turned out to be about cave diving and featured one of the world's most respected divers, Jill Heinerth. She's set records going farther and deeper than any other female, has explored the deepest caves in Bermuda, and was one of the first cave divers to enter an

iceberg. She's done documentaries for The Discovery Channel and PBS in addition to her work on underwater sequences with James Cameron of "Titanic" and "Avatar" fame. Recently she was honored with the Royal Canadian Geographic Award for Exploration. I would absolutely recommend Googling "Jill Heinerth Q Interview" to listen to the same program I did—it's 15 minutes well spent. You can also learn more about Jill at her website www.IntoThePlanet.com.

The whole interview was great, but one thing in particular really got me thinking. Jill seems pretty much your normal, level-headed, everyday person. Formally trained as a graphic artist, she's been fascinated with the world of undersea exploration since childhood. After working in the graphics field for a few years she did what many of us dream of and chucked that stable, predictable path, deciding instead to follow her passion full time.

So much of what she said about the dangers of her sport and how she deals with it could have been torn from the pages of an interview with a top whitewater paddler. She confesses to being afraid every time she goes diving, and says she "is actually afraid to dive with people that aren't afraid," something that I absolutely agree with: there is something wrong with people if they aren't at least a little bit afraid before

putting onto some extra-frothy whitewater. Jill also repeated the oft-heard refrain that if we don't embrace fear, we'll never do anything new, and exploring the new is how we grow, whatever our pursuit.

For someone who purposely puts herself into high-risk situations, Jill deals with the potential danger by visualizing everything that could go wrong and by mentally rehearsing what she'll do if the mission goes bad. If things do turn ugly, that is "frightening in the moment," but she tries to tuck away the emotions, be pragmatic, and make the next step forward to survival and success.

That's all well and good, but when you find yourself in real trouble, it's usually tougher to put the Zen attitude into actual practice. That happened recently when Jill and a team of two others became the first cave divers to explore the inside of an iceberg. As they probed an inner crevice, the flow of water suddenly reversed and they became trapped. Stuck for three hours, Jill and the team became aware that there was a real possibility that they might not make it out. She said they felt "the cave

Opposite: Scouting "Particle Accelerator" on the Upper Black during spring run-off festival MACKfest in Central Ontario.

Photo by Tom Leger

was trying to keep us.” To deal with the crisis, they became incredibly focused on the problem at hand and thought through their options methodically, without panic. They ultimately did make it out, only to watch the iceberg explode and calve off into smaller pieces just an hour after their escape.

I sat listening to her in fascination, relating so much of what she was saying to my experiences on the river, my struggles, successes, and failures. She went on to say that we have to embrace failure, that we have to accept that we will fail, but it is through new efforts that we discover new techniques. Pretty standard stuff, but what she said next really registered as something I had never heard any kayaker say with such clarity.

In cave diving, she says she often gets within a hair’s breadth of complete success and then has to be able to say “maybe not today,” abort and turn around, and wait for a later opportunity—and sometimes, it’s an opportunity that will never present itself again. It means “being within a moment of getting to something that you’ve dreamed of and trained in for years, and having the perspective and humility to turn away from it,” realizing the chance “may only come around once but it has to be declined.”

It’s so important, says Jill, to be able to decide when it’s time to walk away. She talked of some of her closest friends and colleagues who were unable to realize that the time, circumstances, or personal preparedness were not right, but forged ahead anyway, only to lose their lives. It’s crucial, she says, to recognize you’ve reached your limit and you may never have another opportunity, yet it’s time to go home.

Her world is different from ours, but the mental challenges have much in common. What happens when we come up against a once-in-a-lifetime rapid or river, the once-in-a-lifetime label qualified by a freakishly high water level? Or perhaps you’re at a river far from home you are unlikely to ever get to again and it ends up being a bit beyond what you were expecting and are comfortable stepping up to. Or maybe you’re at an age when the clock is ticking fast against what you feel is your ability to handle a particularly challenging stretch of river and you’re standing there staring at it, struggling to make the decision to run or not. Under most circumstances, we’re able to walk the rapid or more fully prepare, developing our skills and confidence to a higher level, to return another day to face the challenge fully loaded. But what if it’s an opportunity in which the window is closing, and is unlikely to open again? How many of us are able to make the right decision and

walk away without the option to return, if that indeed is the right thing to do?

The interviewer asked about her husband, and how he copes with her taking off to travel to far-flung corners of the world to engage in a pursuit so dangerous, and one that would seem to many a frivolous pastime. She acknowledged it isn’t easy on him, and it’s somewhat of a role reversal, the man waiting nervously at home for his woman to safely return. But, she said, “He understands this is what makes me what I am.”

We should all be so lucky to have someone like that on our team.

Tom Legere is a member of the Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, an AW affiliate club in Central Ontario.



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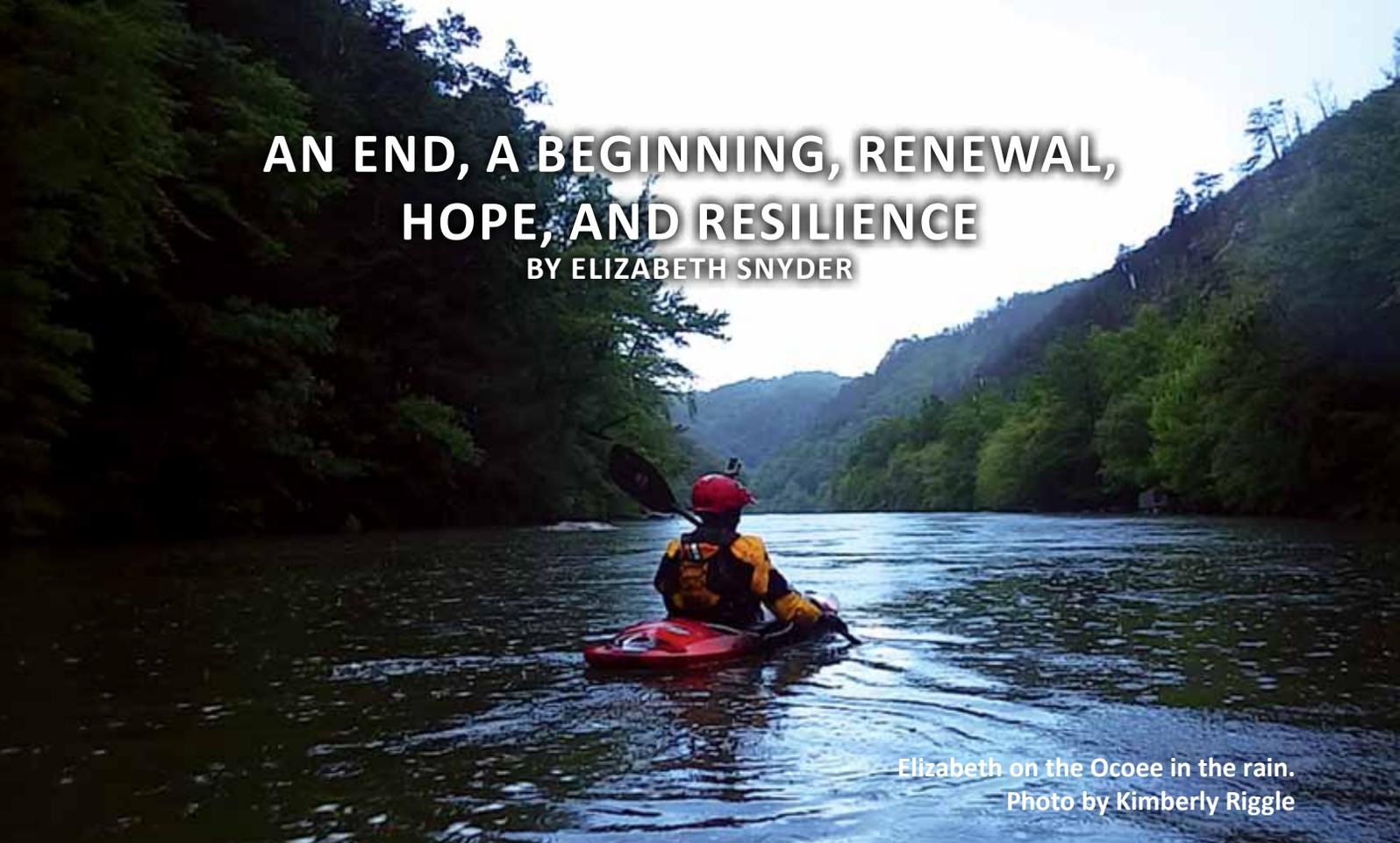
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AN END, A BEGINNING, RENEWAL, HOPE, AND RESILIENCE

BY ELIZABETH SNYDER



Elizabeth on the Ocoee in the rain.
Photo by Kimberly Riggle

REMEMBER WHEN I got married at the grand old age of 23: I felt my life could not get any better. For the longest time, I felt that year was the best year of my life. We had a good marriage, many good times, and we were a family. But 25 years later, I have lived through the mental equivalent of a bone-crushing trashing in a monster boat-eating hole. I was spit out with four carp, failed to roll, and swam the epic swim. What river, you ask? No river, other than the river of life; this is a metaphor for my separation and divorce.

Over the last 18 months, I have learned to live and operate as a single woman with a teenager, to take care of a large home, a lawn, a car, and even how to grocery shop, all the while continuing to work full time in one of those stressful, more than full-time corporate jobs. This is a familiar story, I am learning; I'm not the first to navigate these waters and I won't be the last. Like most first descents can be, it has been a harrowing experience. At the same time, I lost my confidence, ability, and desire to grow in whitewater kayaking. My desire to paddle waned, and instead I wanted to hide or paddle sedate Class I-II.

The Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Virginia became my shield from the world. I would venture out once every other week (those weekends during which my daughter, the child of divorce shuffle, was with her Dad). I would creep down to Fredericksburg to steal moments of serenity and healing on a river I have come to call my sanctuary. That was the extent of my river time until my best paddling girlfriend, Kimberly, talked me into a whitewater trip south. "You can bring your boat!" she said. "You can learn to camp! It will be fun! Road trip! Girls' trip!" With hesitation and fear I signed up. We rented a U-Haul cargo van and loaded it with my mountain bike, our boats, our gear, camping stuff, clothes, and about 150 lbs. of the healthiest junk food on the planet.

Typical of road trips, it started with a high as we chatted and celebrated our road-trip freedom. Then we hit that turbulent storm portion a little over halfway through, during which we shouted obscenities at each other (okay, maybe that was mostly me shouting obscenities), shed a few tears (mine), and stuck out a trembling upper lip (hers),

before we made up with hugs and became even closer.

After 18 months of Class I-II, I was in some shock (to say the very least) at the pushiness and size of Pillow Rapid on the French Broad, and I had my most spectacular eddy meltdown after Double Suck Rapid on the Ocoee. Kimberly, Tony, Sheila, Lydia, and Chris were all very supportive friends in river love, for sure. As I sobbed in the eddy, Sheila said, "That's your fear releasing. Let it out." Kimberly said, "Hang in there. I think you should finish the run." Tony grinned ear-to-ear at me as he styled one rapid after another and we endured yet a second hailstorm on the river—yes, real hail this time. Chris and Lydia, the ever-present and youthful yet wise clinic instructors, deserve gold stars for providing such a varied exposure to whitewater and healthy camp food. Chris showed infinite patience with the wounded creature I presented him. Scratch the gold star; he definitely deserves a medal of honor. 'Nuf said.

Kimberly and I capped off our week at Boater Chick Festival seeing old friends and meeting new. I took time to explore Tsali

RIVER VOICES

MTB trails solo, I got the U-Haul van stuck and had to get a “good ‘ole boy” tow, and I got lost on the trails while it rained very cold rain. A tree crashed down and blocked the trail so I had to push my bike under and crawl through after it. I forgot my windbreaker. I forgot to fill my CamelBak with water. I took a wrong turn directly into a mountain biking race and narrowly missed a head-on collision with an angry, expletive-filled male race participant who parted ways with his bike. I had another meltdown, this time on the beautiful right loop at Tsali, which included jumping up and down, shaking my fists, and howling in anger and frustration. I wasn’t sure if all that wetness on my face was the rain or my ever-present tears. After that personal maelstrom passed, with a bit of anxiety I turned around and joined the mountain biking race until I found my trail back out.



Picking up the UHaul Cargo van; Kimberly on the left, Elizabeth on the right.
Photo by Elizabeth Snyder

Before we hopped back in the cargo van to head for home, I spent the last day reflecting on my week. I had paddled some reasonably challenging rivers after an 18-month hiatus, had two combat rolls and no swims, and had five heartfelt crying jags. I had explored outside my comfort zone and conquered obstacles both natural and manmade. I had camped for five days for the first time ever, including one night

in a torrential downpour. I didn’t have a single bruise, and best of all, my friendship with Kimberly was even stronger. I’m embracing my new beginnings. I am waving nostalgically at my ending, embracing my resilience. My life is not over, it’s just changing. It took a hard right turn. Letting go has been so very hard.

That week filled me with hope. The rivers of Tennessee and North Carolina washed over me: the Nolichucky, the French Broad, the Upper Nantahala, and the Ocoee. The hail and the cold rain cleansed me. I have returned home to unpack my stuff, clean my gear, and I embrace this renewal. I desire more whitewater, more mountain biking, more adventures. I’m thinking about a trip to the Lower Yough...some surfing at the chutes at Anglers...Tohickon in the fall... the New River Gorge...who knows, maybe I’ll meet a man!



I’m closing the door on The End and opening the window to my New Beginning. For all of you out there who have faced this, I tip my paddle to you. For those who embark now, hang tough. It gets better. I thank my friends. I could never have made it through without them, their patience, their strength, and their never-ending kindness and forgiveness.

Yours Truly,
thewaternymph

Paddling Mojo is back!
Photos by Kimberly Riggle

A BEAUTIFUL RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: OC SLALOM NATIONALS IN MONTANA

BY JIM SMITH



Eli and Sage on their championship run.
Photo by John Putnam

WE PULLED OUT from behind the van-sized rock and angled across the current. There was a highway leading downstream and across the river to the eddy and we were on it, with four to six-foot waves breaking around our Millbrook Prowler, a 15-foot long open canoe (OC). Just as we came near the eddy a wave exploded in front of us and smacked Carolyn, the bow paddler, full on in her face. She punched through it, grabbed the eddy water, and pulled us into the eddy and through gate #23, an upstream and the last on the slalom course. We did a quick spin downstream and crossed the finish line.

In a different run, paddling solo, I had taken the same line. I followed a surge of water and watched the waves explode in front of me. I hung back, content to let those bursts of water expend themselves so that I could hold my line and clean the gates. With Carolyn there was no holding back—she was on a mission to hammer down that river fast and clean. Waiting for an exploding wave was not an option and she powered us through. When we made it to shore there were other racers performing exaggerated bows and

applauding our move. *Her* move. Paddling in a canoe with Carolyn Peterson made me look pretty good. It also resulted in a first place finish in the OC-2 Mixed Race class at the American Canoe Association's 2014 Open Canoe Slalom National and North American Championships.

The great folks in Montana hosted a spectacular race, June 27 – 29, on the Blackfoot River. *A River Runs Through It*, by Norman Maclean, is based on and around the Blackfoot. The river lived up to its billing with spectacular scenery, gracious people and rocking whitewater.

The American Canoe Association's OC Slalom National Championships is an event held annually at different sites around the United States and Canada. The event involves slalom racing, paddling local rivers, catching up with friends and sampling local beer. I have attended seven times over the last decade and those rank as some of my favorite paddling experiences. Montana hosted this race in 2004, the year before I began attending nationals. Many fireside chats have established that as one of the great events. When Montana offered to

host again in 2014 I was determined not to miss it. More important, the folks in Montana were determined to exceed the great experience of 2004.

One thing I have never figured out about canoe racers is whether large quantities of beer is shared in celebration of gathering with friends that we only see once a year, or whether the beer is shared in hopes of affecting competitors performance the next day. My first night in Montana I was wandering around the campground catching up with other paddlers as they rolled in. I ended up at the main campfire with a couple of beers in my hand, so I gave one to John, one of our hosts. After finishing my beer, which was far from my first, I got up to leave. John, the ever-gracious host, slapped a beer into my hand, and being a good and grateful guest I sat back down and started on it. Too late, I realized that this was a tall beer, and a little over my limit. After that beer I had to call it a night and headed off to my campsite. Unfortunately I could not get my flashlight to work. I wrestled with it for a while and decided the batteries had died, so I stumbled off in darkness and eventually found my tent.

RACING

The next morning I went to replace the batteries and the headlamp turned right on. I guess those little things are easier to manage when you have not been drinking tall Montana beers.

Paddling in Montana was a bit of an undertaking, as me and my boats started in Clinton, NY. My plan was to leave on a Friday morning, and in typical paddler fashion I left after 1:00 in the afternoon. After sleeping in my minivan in Indiana I was able to roll into Wausau, WI early in the afternoon on Saturday. Wausau Whitewater was hosting the Age-Group Nationals and when that group raced I saw our future. Those young-uns were composed and effective at finessing their kayaks, C-1s and C-2s down the whitewater of the Wisconsin River. As they handed out awards I helped change the course for the next day's race, part of the midwest's "Buttercup Series" of slalom races, then it was time to get on the water for some practice. That night, after some beer (are you noticing that was a theme on this trip?) I found myself a tandem partner, which is a strategy for getting additional time on the water for race runs. This tandem partner even provided the boat! Tarion, an experienced kayaker and rafter, had never paddled whitewater in an open canoe. We rocked the course, which had a big drop and plenty of sticky waves determined to pour into our boat. I am hoping that I converted him into a canoer. I also pulled off a clean solo run in my Esquif Spark, which put me in the right mood for running gates in Montana.

Running gates is one of those things you just have to experience to appreciate. I paddled a canoe a long time before trying slalom. I thought I was a pretty good canoer in the early '90s because I was running the Upper Yough, Gauley and other Class IV-V rivers. Then my kids came along and I wanted something that I could do with my family,

Bryant Lord taking the fast line down the course.

Photos by John Putnam

as trips down the Kennebec did not seem family-friendly. I tried racing at the New England Slalom Series and got spanked. In the rare occasions I got near a gate I banged the gates out of the way (a 10 second penalty), and I was just as likely to miss the gate completely (a 50 second penalty). I was throwing myself around so much to get near the gates that I swam more on those Class II slalom courses than I did on Class IV and V rivers. Fortunately the slalom folks were entertained by my unorthodox moves on the river, and cheered when I "knocked wood" as I slammed the gates. They also proved to be patient mentors, and over many years they fostered my development as a slalom paddler. My family enjoyed racing and some of my proudest memories are winning the Youth/Senior tandem class at OC Nationals with both of my sons.

From Wausau I headed west to visit my in-laws for a night and then on to Montana. I was at the race site by Tuesday, which gave me lots of time to have fun with the water at Roundup Rapid on the Blackfoot River. The river provided great features and the locals set it up to use the whole river. This was a course that challenged you with diversity of moves and punished me for being an older paddler, as I tried to paddle hard through the longest course I have raced on. Best of all was the bottom third of the course, which had big waves

and pushy water. There was a pucker factor for many people as they banged around in those waves, and each day we got better at managing the push of the river. The course was exquisitely designed—if you could hold the lines laid out in the gates there were nice paths and highways through the features. If you didn't hold the lines... well, there was a large "swimmers club" at this race.

As I said, this race is an event, a gathering, as much as it is a race. In the days before the race there was catching up on the banks and matching up on the river. Matching up is all about finding partners for tandem runs— and these have to be partners who paddle on the opposite side of the boat from you. Since I paddle lefty I was looking for righty paddlers, although I can paddle—weakly—on the right side if needed. My family has always attended, which usually resulted in four tandem runs with my wife and two sons. Since this was my first Nationals without my family I was being tested out by new partners, which made for some excitement for our practice runs. I eventually landed three new tandem partners and they added joy to my time on the river!

Tradition at OC Nationals calls for three days of racing, so the competition got underway on Friday. This is a race where



RACING

competitors will loan each other boats—even within the same race class. There is no more supportive group in a race than the competitors at OC Nationals—in the starting eddy there are words of encouragement and while on the course there are cheers from those you are competing against. Those cheers were needed on this course. One of the tougher challenges was the move from gates 5 to 6, a ferry that favored lefty paddlers, while dancing the boat among waves determined to dump into that big hole at the top of a canoe. For balance there was a long ferry from gates 12 to 13 that favored righty paddlers. After those maneuvers tired you out there was an upstream move at gate 16 that set you up for the big water. This was the stretch for spectators, as boats disappeared in the troughs and then bounced up over the waves. To make sure that you were fully exhausted, two of the last three gates were upstream moves. It was time to celebrate when you crossed the finish line!

The well-designed course was just part of the great event organized by Alan Burgmuller, Brandon Salayi, Rebecca Wallace, John Gallagher and dozens of other volunteers who were generous with their time and hospitality. They were energizer

bunnies—whether it was early morning course repairs (for example, after a tree holding a wire for a gate fell into the river), to late-day bib assignments, to late night bonfire accommodations—they kept every aspect running smoothly and every racer had a wonderful time. That work was on top of the year-round work of the American Canoe Association's National Open Canoe Slalom Committee to plan and support this race. The passion many folks have for canoeing whitewater is growing the sport and this race is one of the highlights of the year.

My favorite story from the race involved the Youth/Senior class, which I raced in with Jake Verhaugh from California. After the first run I was happy that we were in second place. Apparently there was some concern among the fifth place team of Eli Helbert and his step-daughter Sage, and team coach Megan Helbert determined that her team needed a pep-talk over lunch. After she fired them up they rocketed into first place with a fast run, bumping Jake and me out of the medals. I do not know what she said, but I want to get her to coach me next year. Best of all, when they reached the take-out Eli found a good-sized rock in the boat that Sage had 'collected' at the top of the course. Eli explained to her

that according to OC slalom traditions she should be putting rocks in other people's boats, not her own!

Racing concluded with an awards ceremony and raffle items generously donated by race sponsors and supporters, including a L'edge OC donated by Esquif. But that was not the conclusion of the event. The locals had been discussing leading trips down rivers in Montana and Idaho. By the end of the racing we were all so bushed that the plans changed to two trips—one that started upstream and ended at the race course and another that started at the race course and ended four miles downstream. I joined the crew that paddled downstream from the race course. I was one of the last to put on and was thrilled to see dozens of swimmers in the river. All those folks who dealt with the pucker factor earlier in the week? They got bored waiting on us slow folks, and after playing through Roundup Rapid they ditched the boats, jumped in, and swam in the big waves for fun. OC Nationals is a great way to step up your paddling—we all had become comfortable on the big water of the Blackfoot River.

Another highlight followed. Many OC paddlers are familiar with being in the minority, paddling with kayakers and the occasional C-1 or OC. For one day we were the majority! We enjoyed the scenery and the rapids of the Blackfoot River, and as I paddled with Megan Helbert we pulled ahead of the group. Looking upstream at 40+ canoes bouncing, surfing and hooting their way through the river... Beautiful!

Learn more about OC slalom, and how to participate in races, at <http://ocs.whitewater-slalom.us/>. Race results are available at <http://2014opencanoenationals.com/results/>.

Caroline Ortmann Williams keeping the open canoe dry on the Blackfoot's rapids. Photos by John Putnam



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,

As a participant in the site visit to Lightning Creek, covered in the Sept./Oct. *Journal*, I believe there is some important background to the story that readers should be aware of. Kevin Colburn mentioned that in advance of the meeting there was quite a bit of confusion about the scope of project, which is true. Unfortunately, this is because the Forest Service initially refused to release information.

Prior to the visit, the Forest Service only provided a few vague, outdated documents that failed to adequately describe the project's scope of work. During the meeting it became apparent that they actually possessed very detailed CAD drawings of the proposed structures, maps of intended locations, and a construction plan. One of our main concerns was whether the Forest Service intended to excavate within the stream channel and riparian zones, or to operate heavy equipment in the stream bed. We felt the public had the right to understand the project's impact.

Had the Forest Service complied with our requests under public records laws, much of the preliminary confusion could have been avoided. Unfortunately, it was only under the threat of legal action, and only after the fact, that the Forest Service finally complied. It was hard to come away from the meeting with the impression that the Forest Service acted in good faith.

Lightning Creek is already ranked among the most productive Bull Trout streams in Idaho, which is quite a distinction as Idaho has over 4.5 million acres of designated Wilderness, and over 9 million acres of Inventoried Roadless areas. This covers hundreds of pristine streams ideally suited to Bull Trout. Sadly, there are also many seriously degraded streams in Idaho where Bull Trout might once again thrive with restoration efforts.

The Lightning Creek project seems to represent an emerging trend of the Forest Service and other agencies spending hydropower mitigation funding in places where it is logistically convenient to do so, as opposed to places where it is a genuinely needed. The meeting might have helped force more transparency with regards to the project, but it also made it clear that it is indeed a bad project.

To learn more about Lightning Creek, please visit: http://www.northidahorivers.com/Lightning_Creek.htm

Regards,
Todd Hoffman
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Response by AW's Stewardship Director Kevin Colburn

Todd highlights some really important elements of how the paddling community accomplishes so much in river management: we are watchdogs, we are squeaky wheels, we know our rivers, and we are pragmatic. Perhaps it goes without saying that we often disagree with land management agencies and hydropower companies. Our strength though comes in hammering out agreements where it really matters, and then being quick to agree to disagree where it doesn't matter. That leaves room for lots of spirited and legitimate disagreement, while keeping rivers and paddlers safe. In this case we reached agreement with the Forest Service to nix some planned log structures that posed a real threat to paddlers. Valid opinions varied widely on the other log structures, but we all agreed they were low risk to paddlers. So that is how we do it: we approach power companies, hostile landowners, and critical agencies and come away with agreements that protect paddlers' interests. It can be extremely frustrating at times, but it works.

Editor's Note: The following letter offers clarification of an account published in the Sept./Oct. 2014 Accident Summary. In a section titled "Outstanding Rescues" an ACA instructor, "who goes on Facebook as Dom Geo" is identified as having led a successful effort to save a head-down foot entrapment victim.

DEAR EDITOR,

The ACA instructor who made the rescue and filed the AW report for the foot entrapment is John Derrick (John's river name is Showboat). Dom Geo is an assistant guide whose phone made the video and also helped in vector pulling the stabilization line that was eventually thrown from upstream. John had just given the assistant guides a throw rope clinic earlier in the day and that made all the difference in the rescue having a positive outcome. John has said many times that he was lucky to be in the right place at the right time with the knowledge of what to do. Thank you for helping make sure that my husband isn't misidentified when people visit Dom Geo's FB page.

Sincerely,
Katie Derrick

AW PARTNERS

\$20,000 - Class V



\$15,000 - Class IV



\$10,000 - Class III



\$7,500 - Class II



\$5,000 - Boof



\$2,500 - Wave



*Leave a lasting legacy to the
special places that made
a difference in your life.*



Become a member of the American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle, created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped to continue our river stewardship efforts through a gift to American Whitewater in their estate plans.

For more information about making a bequest to American Whitewater
CONTACT Carla Miner: 1.866.262.8429 or carla@americanwhitewater.org

Join



AMERICAN WHITEWATER Today!

American Whitewater has been extraordinarily fortunate in our ability to leverage a strong grassroots base—members and other volunteers—to assist our limited staff with many whitewater river conservation and restoration efforts.

Over the years, American Whitewater volunteers have participated in numerous hydropower meetings as well as instream and recreational flow studies; filed comments and assisted with an uncountable number of filings; appeared as expert witnesses; lobbied; worked to fight new dams, remove existing dams, deny licenses, and improve public access to rivers and streams. In nearly every river stewardship issue AW has been involved with, the outcome has been favorable to paddlers. Not only has AW secured favorable decisions for the paddling community, but we are the only national organization representing paddlers as these decisions are being made.

A growing membership base is crucial to our ability to continue with our work. Some studies show that there are currently over 100,000 whitewater paddlers in the U.S. American Whitewater currently has 6,300 active members. When considering the amount of whitewater river miles that AW has had a direct impact on, this membership number is unimpressive. We need all paddlers to join American Whitewater. If you are a member, please be sure that everyone you paddle with understands the work AW does, and how you, as an AW member, value that work.

Membership support is what will determine our ability to continue our river stewardship work in the years to come. Individual Annual Memberships are only \$35. If you are a member of your local paddling club and your club is an Affiliate Club member of AW, join as a Club Affiliate Individual for \$25. This is less than a tank of gas or an inexpensive night out. This is certainly not too much to pay to have a national organization representing your paddling interests all across the country.

Join on-line today at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>, call 1-866-BOAT4AW (866-262-8429), or fill out the form on the back of this page and mail it to:

Membership
P.O. Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723

*Note: AW will never share your information with others

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Member Number: _____

↑ _____ if you have one and know it

Membership Level

\$35 Standard

\$25 Member of Affiliate Club

Club: _____

\$25 Student

School: _____

\$50 Family

\$75 Affiliate Club

\$100 Ender Club (Shirt Size: _____)

\$250 Platinum Paddler

\$500 Explorer

\$750 Lifetime

\$1,000 Legacy

\$2,500 Steward

**For current member rewards
go to:
americanwhitewater.org**

Donation

Donation of \$ _____

Additional Subscriptions

\$30 Kayak Session Magazine - 4 issues per year (KS donates \$5 to AW!)

Journal Options

Do NOT mail me the AW Journal, email it to me <- Saves AW money, and trees! :)

Auto-Renew (No Renewal Notices!)

Auto-renew my membership each year on the credit card below

Payment

Credit Card Cash Check # _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

THE COWBOY AND THE RIVER

BY KAY BOHNERT DURO

The cowboy with his weather
beaten face
aged by sun and spray,

surveyed the white ruse of frothy
river, adjusted his glasses
tapped his helmet
and smiled as he mounted a
sleek
slim
easy to handle craft.

The rocky river bucked
Pulled and pushed him towards
swirls...
swirls...
Boulders...

Hidden points sharpened for
destruction...



lulling him one minute
Upending him the next
Trying to dismount the river
cowboy From his sturdy capsule.

He took the ride in stride
using beaver paddles
to guide and roll his way through

The river boiled and gurgled in
disgust
hoping to display furor enough to
entice

a second chance to unrest
the curious cowboy calloused
with courage

They will meet again

The cowboy respects the
unpredictable river.
He'll be back
when snow melts from white
caps
And the sinister river is at peak
strength

He will be back

The wild bucking river waits...
Waits to throw the rough rider...
To marry his courage in her mire.

ENDURING RIVERS CIRCLE

BY CHRIS HEST

MY FIRST REAL exposure to the importance of American Whitewater was when the North Fork of California's iconic Feather River was reopened for paddlers and many other river-loving people over 10 years ago. An easygoing woman at a table at the put-in was inviting folks to become members...which came with a discount for the shuttle that day...so I did. And thus began an education into the value of small-in-budget but enormous-in-output American Whitewater.

In the intervening years, as I renewed my membership and steadily increased the level, I came to see how American Whitewater has saved and resurrected countless rivers that had been brutalized or left for dead. Some were dead, or at least so dewatered that they were mere shadows of their original selves. And as rivers and the landscapes they flow through became a bigger and bigger part

of my life, I upped my game and pitched in to help American Whitewater. Getting on a river, no matter how challenging or familiar, became the ultimate source of serenity in my supercharged life.

Last year, after letting it sit unchanged for decades (sound familiar?), I revised my will. I don't think I'm afraid of death, but I sure found a lot of reasons to delay that step. This time, I included a bequest for American Whitewater because I want the organization's work to carry on longer after I've eddied out for the last time. I want future generations to experience what I've experienced on America's headwaters—so many of which owe their existence to the dogged persistence and patient action that American Whitewater demonstrates, year after year after year. If you're able, I encourage you to pay it forward by joining American Whitewater's Enduring Rivers Circle—and become an active member with your yearly gift, too, which makes



today's work possible. It's one gift—and one form of effective activism—you'll never regret.

To learn more about the Enduring Rivers Circle and how to join, contact Mark Singleton (828-586-1930) or Carla Miner at (866-262-8429).

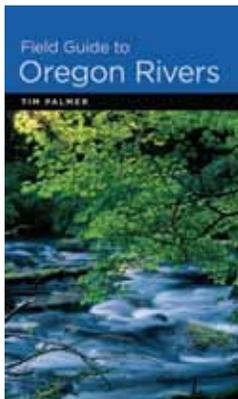
BOOK REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW: TIM PALMER'S *FIELD GUIDE TO OREGON RIVERS*

BY MEGAN HOOKER

LAST NOVEMBER

I had the good fortune to be guided on a poetic and visual adventure of Oregon's rivers. My guide was Tim Palmer, who was giving a talk and slideshow based on his latest book,



Field Guide to Oregon Rivers. The pictures were stunning, from the desert to the mountains, the Gorge and the Coast, and left me longing for a statewide river adventure. Fortunately, Tim's book is a great guide to help Oregon explorers find the best spots to fish, hike and paddle throughout the state, including info about access and recommendations for single and multi-day runs. Similar to Palmer's *Field Guide to California Rivers*, Oregon's guide is complete with info about each river's natural history, conservation efforts, and tributaries. It's truly a handy field guide for any Oregon River lover and explorer, and as American Whitewater's Thomas O'Keefe opines on the back cover, "this excellent guide will inform and motivate every reader to enjoy rivers and work for their protection." If you live in Oregon or you are planning a future road trip there, pick up a copy of Tim's book. It is a great complement to your paddling guidebook.

Palmer is a photographer, speaker, and author of 23 books about rivers, conservation and adventure travel. Through his books, he hopes to help connect us all to the natural world. Request a copy of *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers*, which is published by Oregon State University Press, from your favorite local bookstore!

It's Easy to Support AW!

American Whitewater is proud of the work we have accomplished in our stewardship program but we need your help to sustain our success. Your support through membership and donations enables our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. Donations don't have to be large; each person doing a small part makes a noticeable difference. Many donors fail to take full advantage of federal tax incentives specifically intended to encourage charitable contributions. Such incentives often enable a donor to make a larger gift to AW at little or no additional cost. For more information about maximizing your gift visit the IRS website dedicated to charitable organizations.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN# 23-7083760. To learn more about the Giving Options below, contact us at 866-BOAT4AW or visit the "Donate" link under "Support AW" on our website at www.americanwhitewater.org

- Donate online today!
- Monthly Giving: Contribute a minimum of \$10 via credit card or electronic transfer from your bank account.
- Bequests: Include AW in your will or living trust. Bequests to AW are generally exempt from federal or state inheritance taxes, and subject to an unlimited deduction.
- Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees including federal civilians, military personnel and U.S. Postal Workers can donate to AW through the CFC a once a year charitable fund raising program. Look for AW (Agency #11351) in the official CFC listing of eligible donors.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts: Convert a highly appreciated asset (such as real estate or stocks) into a lifetime income while minimizing income and estate taxes.
- Employer Matching: Many employers will match your donations to non-profit organizations. This includes membership payments, as well as additional contributions. Check to see if your employer has a matching program.
- MissionFish: Sell your items through the MissionFish program on eBay and the proceeds come directly to AW.
- Other Assets: A gift of real estate to AW qualifies you for a tax deduction based on the property's fair market value. If it is not a river access point, AW will sell the property and use the proceeds to protect access and restore rivers. Acceptance of property is subject to certain conditions. You may also be eligible to receive tax benefits for gifts of real property. Art and jewelry are examples of personal property items that may be eligible. Interested donors should check with your financial and tax advisors and AW on the feasibility and tax considerations of such gifts.
- Securities: Donating appreciated stock to AW benefits both the donor and whitewater rivers. The donor receives two tax-related benefits. First, the gain on the stock is not subject to capital gains taxes. Second, the donor can deduct the value of the stock as a charitable contribution.
- United Way: All federal campaigns, and a few of the local campaigns will allow you to donate to AW. AW's UNITED WAY member # is 2302.
- Vehicle Donations: Turn that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting AW.

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY CARLA MINER

The Affiliate Club Program lies at the very heart of American Whitewater's existence. American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has been to distribute information among its Affiliate Clubs. Our relationships with local clubs have provided the backbone for the river conservation and access work we accomplish. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf. If you don't belong to a club, consider joining one.

Our Affiliate Club Spotlight this issue is on the Wilmington Trail Club an outstanding Affiliate Club and longtime supporter of our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

The Wilmington Trail Club (WTC) was founded in 1939 and is an organization of people who live in and around the Wilmington, Delaware area that participate in a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, and skiing. The club schedules almost 400 events each year. Single day trips, trips of several days for backpacking, kayaking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and car and canoe camping. Most events are in Delaware, Pennsylvania or Maryland. Some events extend to other parts of the U.S. (Virginia, New York, New Hampshire) and the world. Trip leaders are club members who contribute their time, expertise, and effort.

The WTC, offers spring-summer training programs, beginning with an open house, followed by a water safety class and trips to Lums Pond for beginner kayak lessons and then up to the Lehigh River for a more advanced whitewater excursion. The pool water safety will break participants into groups for demonstrations with the instructors. The trip to Lums Pond is called the River Easy, where you'll learn how to paddle in gentler waters and slow-moving rivers.

Annual dues for the WTC are an affordable \$18 for an individual, or \$30 for a household. The benefits of membership are experiencing outdoor beauty; meeting friendly and interesting people of all ages; going on trips planned and organized by experienced leaders; and learning about good places for hiking, biking, paddling, and skiing. Check the Club's website <http://www.wilmingtontrailclub.org/Home/tabid/36/>

Default.aspx for additional information on membership.

A big thank you to the Wilmington Trail Club for their continued support of American Whitewater and our mission to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely!

The AW Journal Club Affiliates by state:

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks
Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Birmingham Canoe Club, Birmingham
Coosa River Paddling Club, Montgomery
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assn,
Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

Chico Paddleheads, Chico
Gold Country Paddlers, Lotus
IRIE Rafting Co, Truckee
Nor Cal River Runners, Chico
RTS Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Durate
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers, San Jose

Colorado

Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver
Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club, Colorado Springs
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride
Western Association to Enjoy Rivers, Grand Junction

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Wilmington Trail Club, Newark

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Asso, Atlanta
Paddlers4Christ, Ellijay

Idaho

Backwoods Mountain Sports, Ketchum
Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Illinois

Chicago Whitewater Assn, Chicago

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Bardstown Boaters, Bardstown,
Bluegrass Wildwater Asso, Lexington
Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Troy

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore
Blue Ridge Voyageurs, Silver Spring

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston
Zoar Outdoor, Charlemont

Minnesota

SCSU Outdoor Endeavors, Saint Cloud

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Assn, St Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield
Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings
Butte-Anaconda River Runners, Butte

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond
Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Nashua

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
KCCNY, Flanders

New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico,
Albuquerque

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
AMC NY/NJ Chapter, New York
Colgate University, Hamilton
FLOW Paddlers' Club, Rochester
Hamilton College, Clinton
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq., Ossining
KCCNY, Flanders
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Buffalo

North Carolina

Base Camp Cullowhee, Cullowhee
Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Davidson Outdoors, Davidson
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Mecklenburg Regional Paddlers, Charlotte
Triad River Runners, Winston-Salem
Western Carolina Paddlers, Asheville

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Keelhauler Canoe Club, Cleveland
Toledo River Gang, Toledo

Oregon

Eugene Kayaker, Eugene
Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Next Adventure, Portland
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
PNWKayakers.com, Portland
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks
Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre
Canoe Club of Centre County, Lemont
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Holtwood Hooligans, Paradise
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Pittsburgh

S. Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Limestone
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club,
Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Assn, Nashville
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga

Utah

High Jim and the A.S.K., Salt Lake City
Utah Whitewater Club, Salt Lake City

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynchburg
Coastal Canoeists Inc, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke
Hollins Outdoor Program, Roanoke

Washington

BEWET- Boeing Employees Whitewater &
Touring Club, Bellevue
EPIC Adventures, Cheney
Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
University Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Seattle
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Berkeley Springs
West VA Wildwater Assn, Berkeley Springs
WVU Whitewater Club, Morgantown

Wisconsin

Hoofers Outing Club, Madison
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson

British Columbia

Thompson Rivers Univ Adventure Studies,
Kamloops

Ontario

Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarthas

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

By Carla Miner, Membership Manager

AW offers a discounted Affiliate Club membership of \$25, a \$10 savings. If you are renewing your AW membership or joining as a new member, select the Affiliate Club Discounted Personal Membership online at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/> Or, if you are renewing or joining by mail or telephone just mention the name of the Affiliate Club you belong to and you can take advantage of the \$25 membership.

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face.

If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_BOAT-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITewater AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

1. Support river access and restoration through the AW River Stewardship Team.
2. Be part of a national voice for the protection of the whitewater rivers your club values.
3. Tap into the professional expertise of AW staff for river issues that come up in your backyard.
4. Your club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Receive the American Whitewater Journal, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
6. Your club is recognized in the list of Affiliate Clubs posted to the AW website.
7. Recognize your club in the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly AW Journal.
8. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
9. Gain Club satisfaction from lending support to AW's stewardship efforts.
10. Improve your club members river karma.

For more information, contact Carla Miner at membership@americanwhitewater.org or sign-up on line at www.americanwhitewater.org/membership.

The logo features the letters 'AW' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'A' is partially enclosed by a green shape that resembles a stylized mountain or a splash of water. The 'W' is also white and bold. To the right of the 'AW' logo, the words 'AMERICAN WHITewater' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'e' in 'Whitewater' is lowercase and smaller than the other letters. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a blue raft with two people navigating through white-water rapids.

AMERICAN WHITewater

Contribute your text and photos to *American Whitewater*

American Whitewater is a member-driven publication. If you enjoy reading it, please consider letting its pages tell your story. We are looking for articles about whitewater rivers of any variety, so let your imagination flow free!

We're always accepting submissions and we hope you'll consider contributing. For complete submission details, story topics, deadlines, and guidelines, go to:

americanwhitewater.org > Library > AW Journal



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Saving Rivers Since 1954

Rok Sribar and friends, East Fork Kaweah, CA. © Darin McQuoid

\$35 Cheaper than anything in your gear bag, twice as important.
americanwhitewater.org/join

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