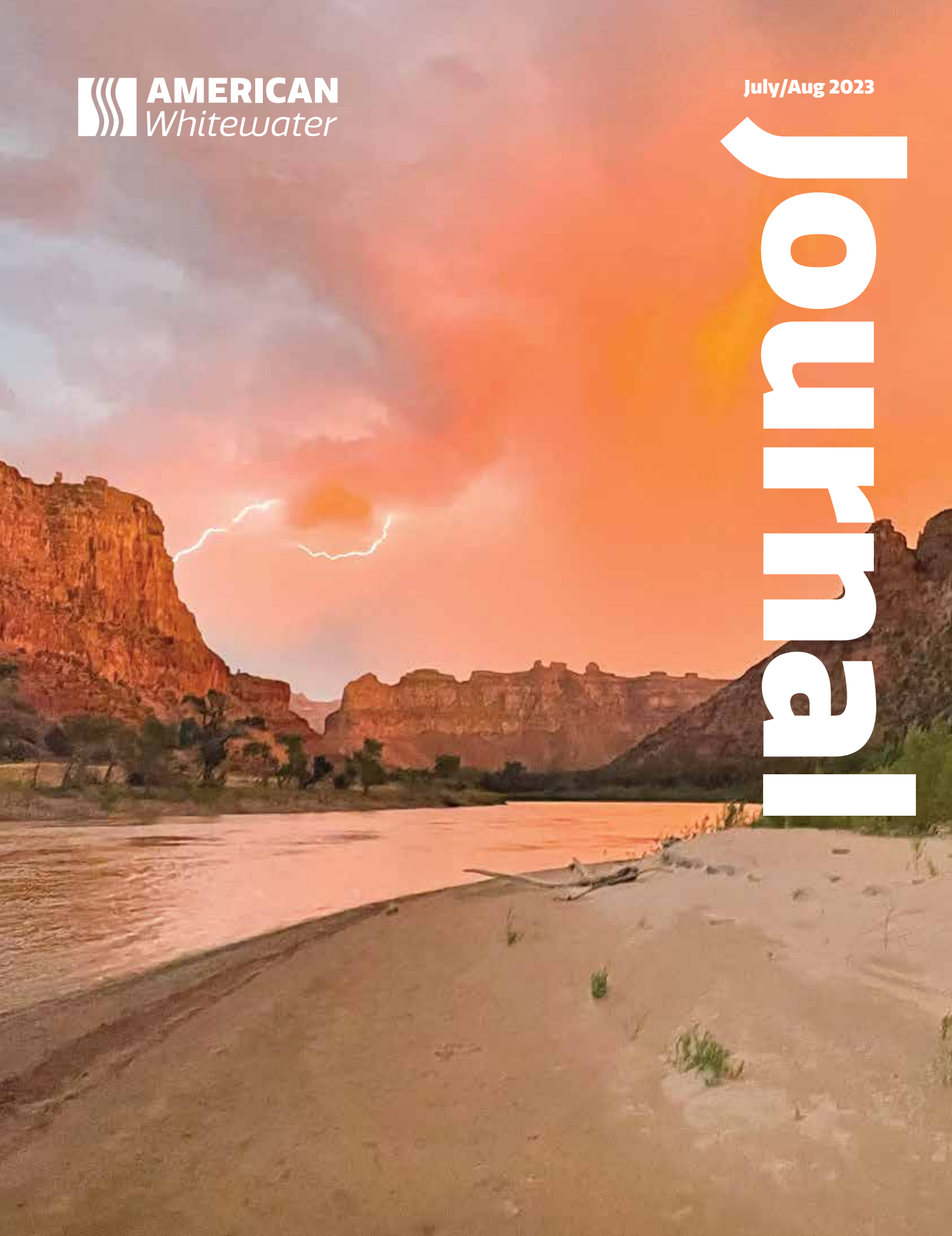


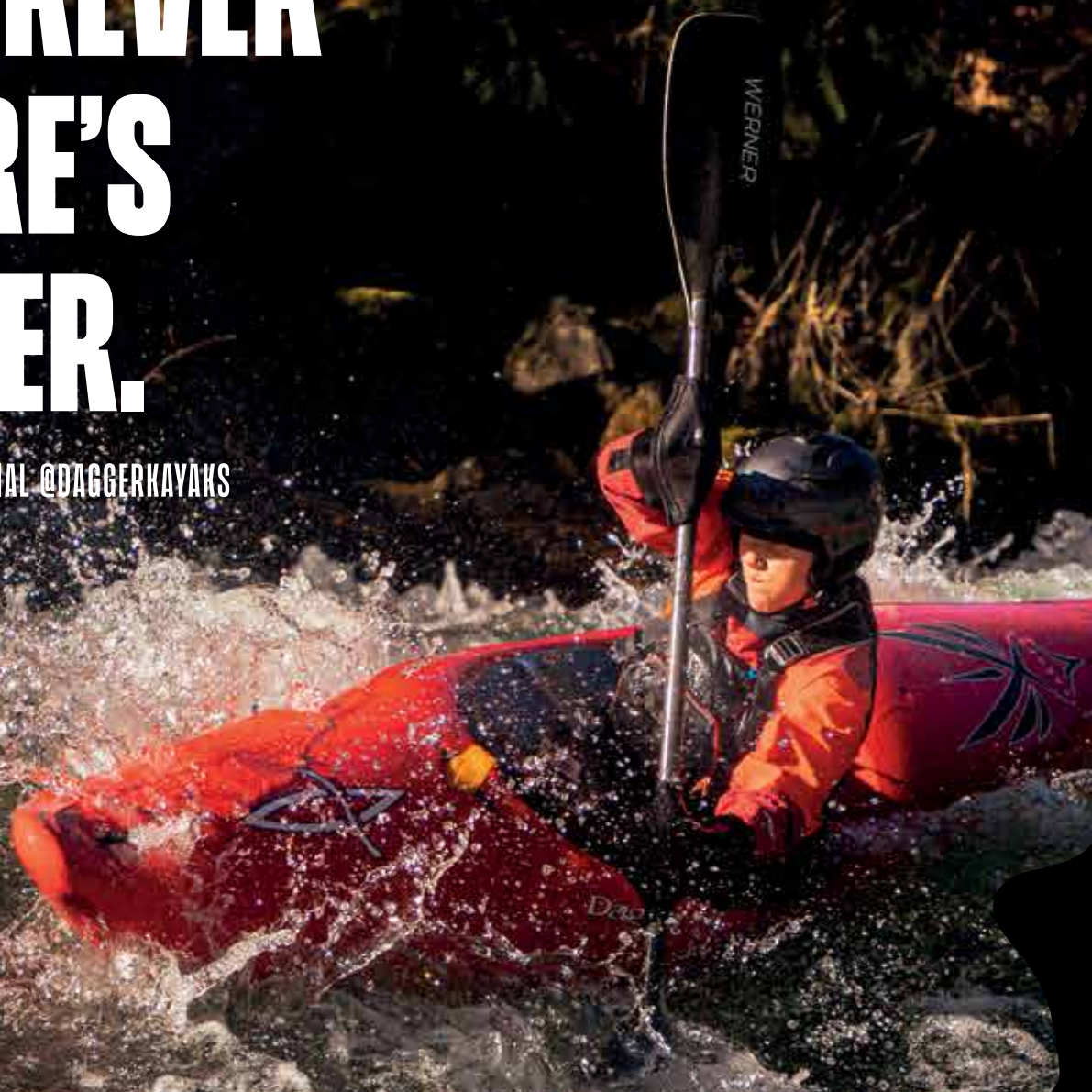
# Journal



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# AMERICAN WHITewater JOURNAL



A volunteer publication  
promoting river conservation,  
access, and safety

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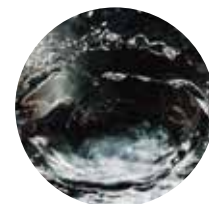
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**On the cover:** Long-term water supply issues due to overallocation and exacerbated by climate change still plague the Colorado River Basin despite this year's healthy snowpack. In places like Desolation Canyon on the Green River (pictured) and in Cataract Canyon and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, American Whitewater is acting to make sure recreation interests have a seat at the table during the planning processes for Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoir operations, while we continue to work to optimize ecological and recreation benefits under current management. Keep your eyes on our online channels as we'll be sharing opportunities for public input on the future management of this incredibly important watershed as they arise. Photo by Ashleigh Tucker

## PURPOSE

### RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Our mission: "To protect and restore America's whitewater rivers 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.

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 Journal* 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.

**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 bi-monthly 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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# Horizon Lines

By Clinton Begley

## EACH OF OUR FIVE JOURNALS A YEAR INCLUDES A

robust selection of stewardship articles that demonstrate how we deliver on our mission as the nation's leading advocate for whitewater rivers and their safe enjoyment. This, our Impact Report issue, also serves as a valuable platform to underscore our dedication to being a top-tier nonprofit organization as well.

While administering a 501(c)(3) nonprofit may not be the most glamorous aspect of our work, it serves as a vital foundation that ensures the longevity and scalability of our efforts. Sound financial stewardship, strategic organizational development, and adherence to best practices in nonprofit administration are essential to sustaining American Whitewater's impact. While it is mostly behind the scenes, this work is necessary to maximize the benefits to the rivers and creeks that matter to you.

Part of that responsibility includes reporting out what we have done with your investments, and how we steward your donor and member dollars each year. By seeing our financial statements, and a snapshot of accomplishments, you can be confident that your investments are managed responsibly, and paying-off where it counts.

We have received twelve consecutive four-star Charity Navigator ratings which puts us in the upper echelon of trustworthy nonprofits. However, good governance goes beyond external recognition. It involves understanding when to take calculated risks and strategically growing to meet the evolving needs of our community and our rivers. At American Whitewater, our business decisions are guided by the expertise and passion of our dedicated staff and board of directors. The Charity Navigator score is extra credit.

As our 2022 Impact report will attest, it was a remarkable year for American Whitewater, the advancement of our mission, and the stewardship of this organization. The positive momentum has carried into 2023, where we have already made significant strategic investments. In May, our staff gathered in Northern California to assess our current position and begin to chart the course ahead. During the first week of August, our board and staff will gather in Massachusetts during Deerfield River Fest weekend to build upon those strategic conversations and look to the future together. These convenings signify our commitment to responsible stewardship and investment in the strategic capacity of American Whitewater to look over the next horizon line. This is not an organization that rests on its laurels.

An additional strategic investment this year has included the refreshed look and feel of our logo and the Journal. These updates will guide the design of a new American Whitewater website to be rolled out in the coming months. But that won't be merely an aesthetic improvement. The forthcoming update is a substantive shift in how our content is organized and delivered, and represents an investment in communicating our stewardship projects, goals, and ways to get involved in more compelling and inspiring ways for our community. I am excited for the roll-out and am confident the update will make it easier for you to stay informed and feel connected to the work we do on your behalf.

These and other investments represent our board and staff's dedication to thoughtfully strengthening the organization so that we can continue to deliver on our mission for the long term. I am grateful for your support and your trust in our team. If you have any questions about this Impact Report, or how you can help support us beyond the next horizon, please drop me a line.

Have an excellent summer - I hope to SYOTR soon!



Clinton Begley  
Executive Director



## Editor's Note

In the May/June 2023 issue's "Nahanni Mist" by Gary Storr, we failed to correctly attribute a photo by Nahanni River guide Ben Richardson (on page 32). We apologize for the omission and warmly thank Ben for the use of his photo of a caribou!

# Great Falls of the Catawba Restored!

*By Kevin Colburn*

After over a century of being dewatered, the Long Channel of the Great Falls of the Catawba now has continuous flows, provided through innovative whitewater park channels that allow water, paddlers, and fish to flow past a diversion dam. Photo: Chris Jackson.



## THE PLACE IS OTHERWORLDLY, AN EXPANSIVE SEA OF

sunbaked rocks where there was once a mighty river. Isolated pools of water between the rocks are filled to the brim with swirls of green and yellow algae. Some contain gar and catfish the size of your leg, trapped, gulping air. The biggest fish have talon scars on their backs from eagles that proved unable to lift them from the water. Others were not so lucky, and their bones adorn nearby rocks, the skulls of the gar left gaping, with their toothy crocodile-like jaws ajar. Everywhere there are birds. There are lizards. There are snakes. It is an eerily quiet place taken over by the descendants of dinosaurs.

A dewatered river is a lot like a skeleton. Hiking among the bones of the river, one must imagine what it would look like covered with muscular currents. And, like a skeleton, a dry river feels wrong to stare at, like something you should never see, or should avert your eyes from. But looking is not the taboo, the taboo is in dewatering a river.

### The 1900s: A River Silenced

The Great Falls of the Catawba was silenced 117 years ago, when the eight-mile series of roaring rapids attracted the nascent hydropower industry. Two large dams were built that inundated most of the Great Falls beneath their reservoirs. Between them lay a two-mile section of tumultuous river coursing between islands, and it was this section that was shunted into a power canal by small diversion dams and left to bake in the sun for over a century. Until now.

### The 2000s: Running A Skeleton River

I showed up in Great Falls for the first time in 2003 as a young American Whitewater representative. I was only recently out of graduate school, but by this time I had been immersed in the complex world of hydropower negotiations for a couple of years. I was in the thick of negotiating releases and access on the Cheoah, Nantahala, and Tuckasegee rivers when Duke Energy began the process of seeking a new 30- to 50-year federal license for their dams on the Catawba River. They kicked off a sprawling collaborative process covering all 11 of their dams and I signed up.

The only whitewater left exposed between the reservoirs was the Great Falls and another reach downstream of Lake James. I focused on those two whitewater reaches with the Great Falls requiring hundreds and likely thousands of hours of effort. Local paddler and naturalist Andrew Lazenby and I spent days wandering the dry riverbeds, mapping old roads and potential trails on the islands and shores, and piecing together how this river might be brought back to life in a way that worked for paddlers and the environment. In the sweltering heat of the riverbed, we squinted and daydreamed of a restored river, of righting the obvious wrong. Andrew had paddled it during a low spill once or twice, but for me it was just rocks and imagination.

And then one day it wasn't.



Bunny Johns, a legendary Southeastern paddler, had been working for Duke Energy for a while helping them wrap their heads around recreational needs and opportunities. Bunny set up a couple of test releases for us to explore the river with water in it, and we invited a handful of paddlers to join us. We paddled some laps, with my head spinning with ideas. So many ideas. So much potential. So much fun. I tried hard to embed each rapid and surf wave in my mind, while letting myself paddle with curiosity and joy. Soon, I thought, if I play AW's cards right, the public will be able to paddle scheduled releases on this river. Boy, was I wrong about "soon", but the cards were starting to come together.

Paddling over dams is, well, discouraged, to say the least. But while we scouted the portage around the Long Channel diversion dam on one of our exploratory runs, we were curious about a line we saw. The dam was built atop a finger of bedrock that jutted out of the downstream side of the dam at a right angle. It looked like a very small drop onto the finger of rock and then a fun waterslide—almost a rail slide—down to the river below. Asheville paddler Jeff Tallman wanted to give it a go and no one said no, despite the sensitivity of our sanctioned test releases. I went downstream and took a photo of his descent, which went off without issue. This small, slightly deviant act of playfulness would turn out to have big ramifications.

I studied river restoration in graduate school, with an emphasis on using wood, rock, and plants to help streams recover from impacts. I'd learned about rock-ramp fishways as an alternative to dam removals. Sometimes small dams are unlikely to come out because of upstream development or other reasons, so instead of dam removal people fill in the river downstream of the dam with boulders to make a ramp-like river channel that lets water flow over the dam and down into the river below. It ends up looking kind of like a natural lake outlet with a rapid. These can allow fish and people to pass. Watching Jeff slide over the diversion dam got me thinking about building a rock-ramp fishway that allowed paddlers to paddle over the diversion dam and into the river below—and surf a man-made wave or two in the outflow. I used my laughable photoshop skills to mock up what it might look like. But first we had to justify releases.

Whitewater flow studies are pretty darn cool. The power company releases a range of flows and volunteer paddlers run laps, filling out surveys after each run and then again at the end. We hold focus group discussions to seek convergence of opinions around the range of acceptable flows, optimal flows, and access needs. Photographers shoot photos of set points at each flow. A consultant, Bunny Johns in this case, is in charge, analyzes the data, and writes it all up.



**Before this year, the Great Falls of the Catawba looked like this for over a century – a sunbaked dry riverbed.**  
Photo: Kevin Colburn.



American Whitewater plays a big role in study design, inviting participants, handling on-water travel, and facilitating discussions. The Great Falls studies were big events with lots of paddlers in all kinds of craft. We played super hard at three or four different water levels in each of the two channels. This study would form the basis for our negotiations. We centered on flows just shy of 3,000 cfs in each channel. Access was rugged and remained a bit of a mystery. With data in hand, it was time to negotiate.

Actually, we had already been negotiating for well over a year at this point. All-day monthly meetings in a room with 30-plus people, all with distinct interests. There was the power company, all the state and federal agencies, local governments, and a few nonprofits and local citizens. The Carolina Canoe Club was expertly represented by Maurice and Motty Blackburn, and Dennis Huntley helped represent private paddlers on the upper section in particular. To help move the talks along, Andrew and I put together a paddling mitigation proposal in partnership with the clubs. The proposal was the culmination of many hikes and paddles and conversations. We pitched a release schedule in both channels, a handful of specific access areas and trails, and a rock-ramp fishway to get paddlers and water over the diversion dam into the Long Channel. It took time and diplomacy, but the releases and most of our proposed access areas and trails were agreed to. The rock-ramp fishway was rejected. We signed an agreement in 2006, anticipating releases a couple of years later.

### **The 2010s: Waiting for Water**

Then a decade was lost to litigation and bureaucratic delays unrelated to our restoration agreements. A decade! A decade of dry river, a decade without Great Falls, a decade of no wahoo. For a while, I wrote embarrassing web articles about how surely next year releases would begin. And then I stopped writing those articles. Powerless, we watched the gummed up gears of government and conflict slowly clunk their way forward. Eventually the federal license was issued late in 2015, and a five-year clock was started to get Great Falls up and running. When we negotiated this long, five-year timeframe it seemed releases would begin right away regardless, but there were problems to be solved. Big problems. Lots of problems. It was time to get back to work.

### **The 2020s: The Future of the Catawba**

The access plans were not much more than sketches and the trails were just narrative descriptions and lines I drew in photoshop. And there was the question of how exactly to get water over the dams and into the riverbeds. Duke set their engineers on the tasks and proposed a slightly more detailed plan. The proposal had the put-in trail for the Long Channel climbing up and over the aptly named Mountain Island and entering the channel about a third of the way down the run. The deal was to build a quick portage trail around the dam—not an epic carry-in—but that was deemed impossible for technical reasons. I balked at the proposed trail re-alignment

because it would skip half the good rapids and make paddling untenably and unnecessarily difficult. I worried no one would do it. After all this time, we were going to lose the run. Already Duke had decided to release water below the first rapid on the Short Channel for reservoir safety reasons—a loss that stung—but now this.

Around the same time Duke engineers began talking about notching the Long Channel diversion dam to provide releases rather than installing pneumatic gates as originally planned. So we had two problems: getting water and paddlers over the diversion dam. I had a solution! I dusted off our rock-ramp fishway proposal and encouraged Duke to bring a whitewater park designer for a consultation. It wasn't long and the idea took hold. Scott Shipley with S20 was brought in and mocked up a stunning and creative piece of engineering. Duke was all in. I'll admit the scale of the project took my breath away. I asked if the structures could be recessed into the upper reservoir rather than extend into the river below but the plan was set. It appeared that Great Falls was getting a whitewater park!

As the design process played out there were meetings with local officials and rescue squads, and we turned our attention to the trails and access sites. One trail was particularly troubling. We'd negotiated a portage trail around the Short Channel diversion dam that filters through steep boulders and down to the river, but then continues downstream for the length of the run. I went down for two trips, one with Jack Ditty, and the other with Jack Henderson to find and map the ideal route. It was a grueling but fun exercise, made sweeter by construction related spills that allowed us to paddle the river after hiking. We tried hard to bring the trail to cool points of interest and egress options, and to make it as easy as possible for people carrying boats. I returned with Duke engineers twice to flag and finalize the trail alignment. They took it from there, including designing metal stairs to the put-in using ground-based LIDAR. So, lasers, they used lasers. So cool.

There was one last issue that kept bothering me. Back in 2005 we'd proposed an access area in the Town of Great Falls that would allow people easy access to the reservoir and the top of the Short Channel. The proposal was rejected. We felt it was key to the Short Channel being attractive to paddlers, and to bringing visitors into the Town of Great Falls. The town has had a rough go of it since the textile mills shut down in the 80s. Folks there are hungry for opportunities. On one of our visits, we found an ideal alignment for a trail to make this work. We shared this trail option with the folks at Duke and renewed our request. In what I think was just a happy accident, Duke had purchased several properties right at the would-be trailhead to use as a staging area for some major construction work on the dam. To my surprise, they agreed to turn the land into an access area when they were done with it!

Duke broke ground on the whitewater park channels, access areas, and trails with a stunning display of engineering and construction prowess. We watched in awe as all the ideas of so many people over so many years took form in the course of a year or so. S2O had designed two channels. One runs parallel to the dam and then makes a sharp 180-degree turn and runs back along itself, losing elevation over nine wave/hole structures before emptying into the river. This channel, dubbed the paperclip channel for its shape, is intended to provide a paddling route during recreational releases, when it carries 450 cfs. The other channel is a much larger straight shot that loses nearly the same gradient as the paperclip but in only four drops. This channel is intended to deliver water and paddlers at the continuous base flows of 450 or 850 cfs depending on the time of year. But during recreational release flows, the big channel is, well, big! It gushes with around 2,500 cfs.

Over the next couple months, the whitewater features were fine-tuned for safety and enjoyment. I was able to take a couple of test laps and offer feedback. Rescue squads trained along with Catawba Riverkeeper staff and local paddlers, including Dennis Huntley. And a group of us spent a long slimy day out

in the riverbed removing dozens of particularly dangerous trees and shrubs that had grown there during its dry century. With only days to spare, we were as ready as we were going to get!

Finally, it was time to celebrate and head to the river. On March 15th, 2023, Duke hosted an event to celebrate the milestone of restoring flows to the Great Falls and to facilitate media aimed at informing would-be visitors. I was invited to speak at the event, and then a group of us headed to the river for a ribbon cutting and press event. We launched with great fanfare, and I was able to finally paddle the river with Andrew Lazenby who had helped advocate for the river as a volunteer two decades earlier. Just a few days later, I headed back to the river with my ten-year-old daughter to celebrate the first official dam release on the Great Falls on March 18th. At least 200 people showed up to paddle on a day full of smiles. The town even threw us a block party. Thanks to the work and creativity of hundreds of people over the past two decades, the Great Falls of the Catawba will now have water every day, all day, for the rest of our lives. ■

**There is nothing quite like paddling a restored river.  
Long Channel, Great Falls Catawba River.  
Photo Kevin Colburn**



# PERFORMANCE // REIMAGINED



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# Honoring Both River and Residents: Wild and Scenic River Status for the North Fork of the French Broad

*By Grace Hassler*



**AS PADDLERS, IT IS NOT NEW TO US THAT RIVERS ARE** special places in need of protection. It's easy for us to recognize the outstandingly remarkable values possessed by all the rivers we have the fortune to embark on. We develop unique, intimate connections to these waterways and are often the only people able to access and experience many of the rivers around the country. Unfortunately, our community has seen many of the most outstandingly remarkable rivers dammed, developed, and disappeared.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act preserves rivers that possess "outstandingly remarkable values" in a free-flowing condition and protects them and their immediate environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act). Designated rivers are permanently protected from development projects such as dams, making the WSR Act a powerful conservation tool for paddlers.

A 3.2-mile section of North Carolina's North Fork of the French Broad River (NFFB), all within Pisgah National Forest, was identified as eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation by the Forest Service earlier this year. Located in the homeland of

the Cherokee Nation in Transylvania County, about 45 minutes southwest of Asheville, it is a stunning and steep Class IV+ river popular among paddlers and intrepid anglers willing to trek into the gorge. I had the pleasure of packrafting the river in April with Kevin Colburn, Director of Stewardship for AW. We were greeted by tangles of rhododendron and just enough crystal clear water to navigate our way through the rocky channels. Allegedly, somewhere above us was the road we drove in on. But on the river, it might as well have been miles away. We didn't see another human until the take-out. It only took one visit to the NFFB to understand why this river has been so special to paddlers and residents alike for decades.

Paddlers have an important community to thank for their access to the river. The cascades of the North Fork of the French Broad would be a distant memory under a lake if it weren't for the continued efforts of local residents. Since the 1960s, and as recently as the '90s, various entities (including the Tennessee Valley Authority) proposed plans to dam this river and surrounding rivers, largely citing flood control as their justification for construction. Each time, locals who loved and recognized the outstandingly remarkable value of the river fought back



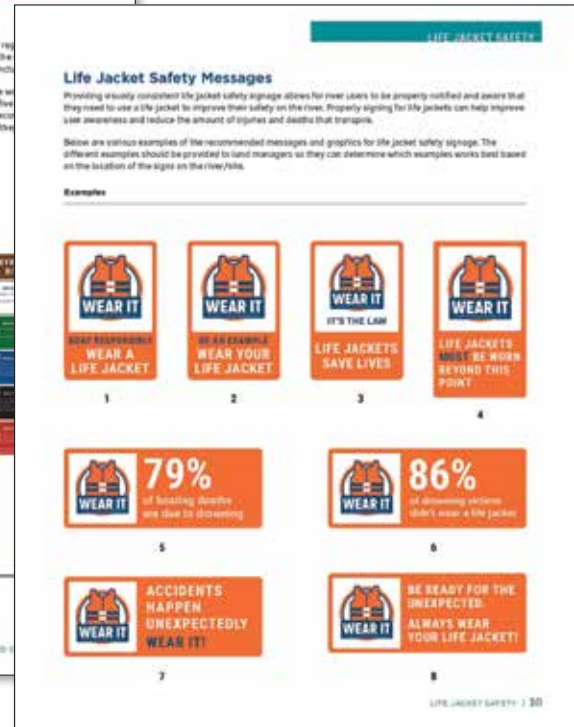
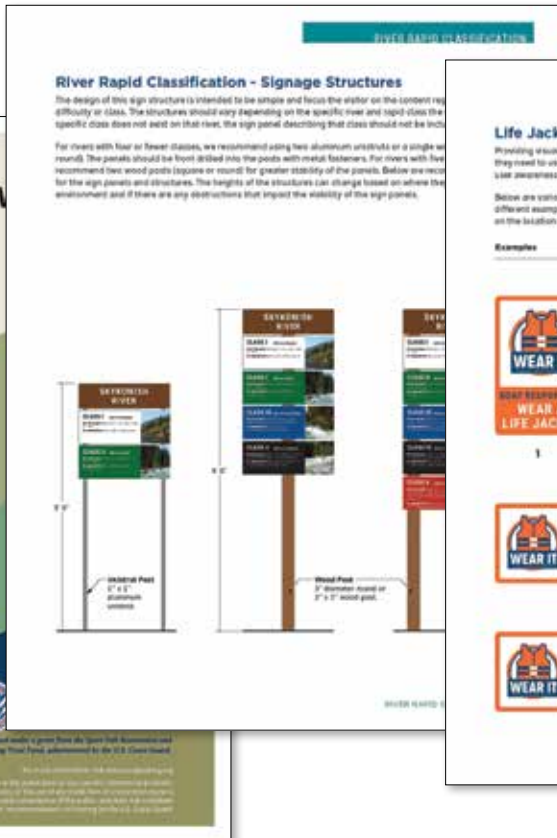
Photo: Grace Hassler

***Since the 1960s, various entities proposed plans to dam this river...Each time, locals who recognized the outstandingly remarkable value of the river fought back and won.***

and won. The continued love and support for the river was on full display at the end of April when the Transylvania Natural Resources Council hosted an information meeting about what Wild and Scenic River designation would mean for the river and those who live nearby. Dozens of people attended with many asking how they could stay involved and support designation efforts.

A congressional vote is required to induct the North Fork of the French Broad into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Designation of the NFFB would honor the legacy of those who have fought so hard for decades to protect it. If the river is awarded WSR status, they will never again have to worry about losing this local treasure. The river would remain runnable for paddlers and, just as important, maintain its essential functions within the local ecosystem. Through Wild and Scenic River designation, we have an immense opportunity to give back to a place that gives so much to us.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved with the North Fork of the French Broad's journey towards Wild and Scenic River status. ■



## A River Industry First Descent: American Whitewater Releases Open-Source Signage Toolbox

By KM Collins

*“The annual death toll on America’s whitewater rivers is filled with the names of people who were looking for a fun day on the water and blundered into a dangerous situation. American Whitewater’s Safety Signage Project is designed to alert people to downstream dangers and suggest simple safety practices. This Open-source Signage Toolbox will make it easier for river managers, landowners, and others to get the word out.”*

– American Whitewater Safety Chairman, Charlie Walbridge

American Whitewater is all about open-source, river information sharing. This is the motivation and rationale behind American Whitewater’s recently released Open-source Signage Toolbox. The first of its kind in the river community, the Toolbox houses a database of templates for safety messaging regarding life jackets, caution messaging, river kiosk information, map content, and river rapid classification information.

American Whitewater has taken on the challenge of streamlining universal whitewater and river signage. Think of the Toolbox as conveniently usable excerpts and content from a universal river sign guidebook. In the same way ski resorts have cultivated unified symbols, signage, and color coding standards for downhill difficulty ratings (i.e. black diamond, blue square, green circle, etc.), American Whitewater has curated universal signage for relaying important river safety information in the form of the Toolbox.

And who better to oversee the production of the first universal whitewater signage Toolbox than American Whitewater? American Whitewater has been recognized as the expert in whitewater and river safety for over 60 years and has been looked at to provide input and guidance on safety messaging for signage at river access points across the country. In contributing to countless signage projects throughout scores of years, American Whitewater noticed a need for more consistent messaging and improved accessibility to a range of river managers and users.

Comprehensive by design, the 83-page Toolbox indicates best practices for symbol and text combinations, color, graphic and spacing standards on panel imagery, acceptable pictograms, and preferred dimensions of physical signs and posts, as well as proximal placement to access location. The Toolbox brings together the diverse input of over 200 river industry community members.

American Whitewater Communications Director Evan Stafford said, "The years of river safety experience that went into American Whitewater's Safety Signage Project is hard to even put a number to, but suffice it to say it should be counted in centuries. Everyone from public lands agency river managers who've been working to educate river users for decades, to swiftwater rescue instructors who've been teaching courses for generations, gave their input. The end result is a comprehensive, open-source toolkit, that will push river signage to be the most informative it can be while maintaining consistent messaging that can be recognized across jurisdictions and from watershed to watershed."

American Whitewater's ultimate goal in the Open-source Signage Toolbox initiative is to reduce boating fatalities and accidents based on the premise that more effective information at river access points will result in a greater percentage of individuals engaged in safe boating practices.

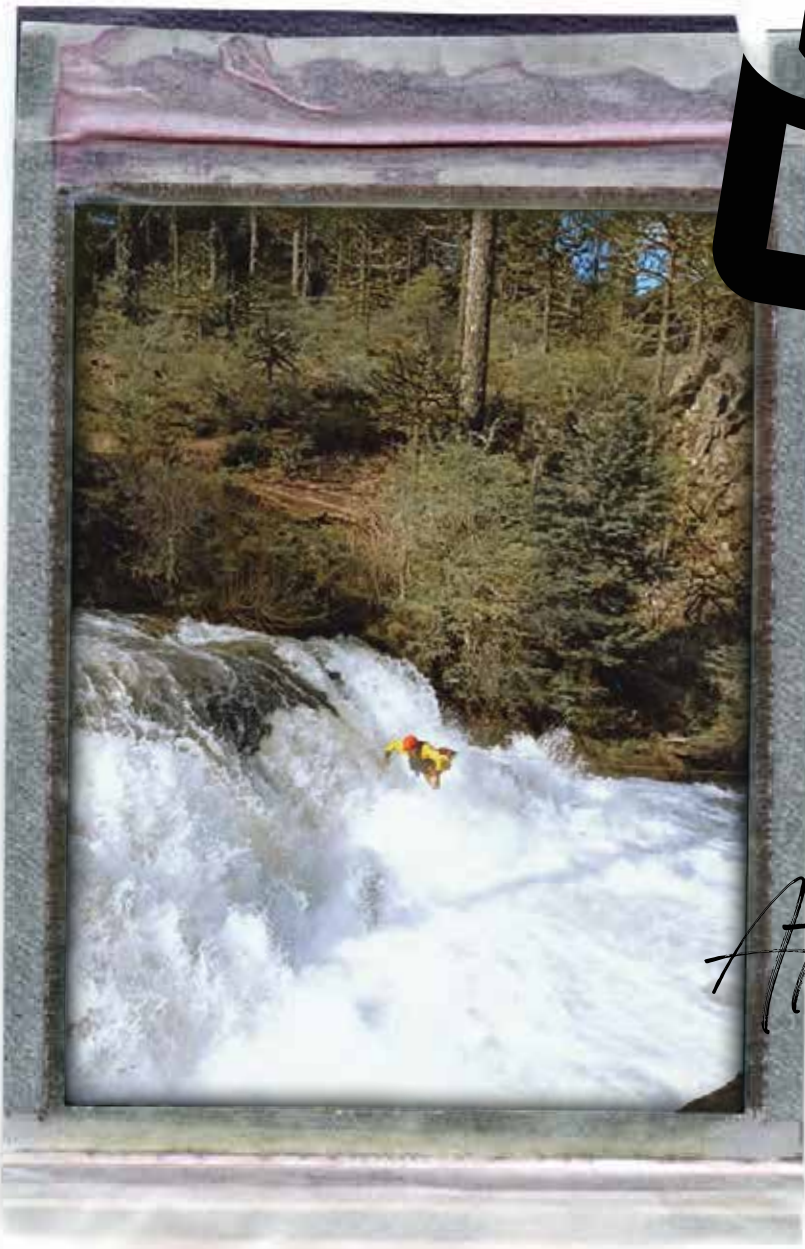
"As a professional rescuer and firefighter, I know the nexus between information and prevention. With information, people can make an informed decision about where and how they want to recreate on the river. That critical information will lead to safer experiences for people and help to prevent accidents in the river environment," noted Sean Norman, Team Leader of the Water Rescue Team for Cal Fire in Butte County, California.

By building an Open-source Signage Toolbox that supplies designers and river managers with coherent signage elements and other visual assets with consistent messaging, iconography, and graphic elements, American Whitewater helps to improve river safety and standardize resources and materials used at river recreation sites. Supported by research and industry expertise, the Toolbox has been developed to create a comprehensive signature and graphic program that will improve communication, safety, and awareness. Specifically, this toolbox was developed to:

Prevent deaths, emergencies, land-owner conflicts, harm to river and wildlife, and the environment, unlawful and unsafe behavior at the access sites and mistreatment of the river/sites. Protect lives, natural resources, rivers and the environment. And finally, improve communication, connectivity, safety, recreation experience, education, site infrastructure, river health and stewardship, dams, portage routes and hydraulics, equipment details, general river use and guidelines.

American Whitewater will evaluate the effectiveness of the project through outreach to state and federal agencies, dam operators, and other river managers who are responsible for providing recreational boaters with safety information. American Whitewater will work collaboratively with river managers and state boating law administrators to identify opportunities to install improved signage and evaluate effectiveness through actions of the public.

The Toolbox was developed over the course of one year in partnership with Tangram Design under a grant from Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The original concepts for the project emerged from an effort by Snohomish County, WA to develop safety messages for communities along the Skykomish River. You can find the full toolbox at the American Whitewater website [www.americanwhitewater.org/safetysignage](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/safetysignage). ■



*Athlete Tested.*

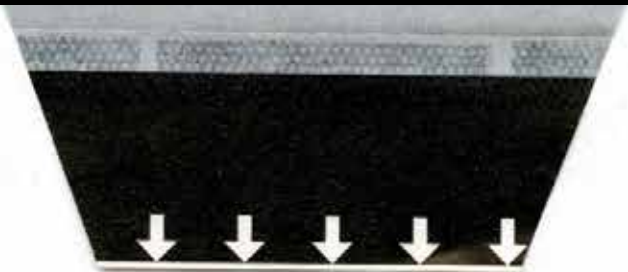
*Circa 2022*

*Julian Tisato*

*Getting Immersed in Research..*



**Dry wear passing with flying colors.**

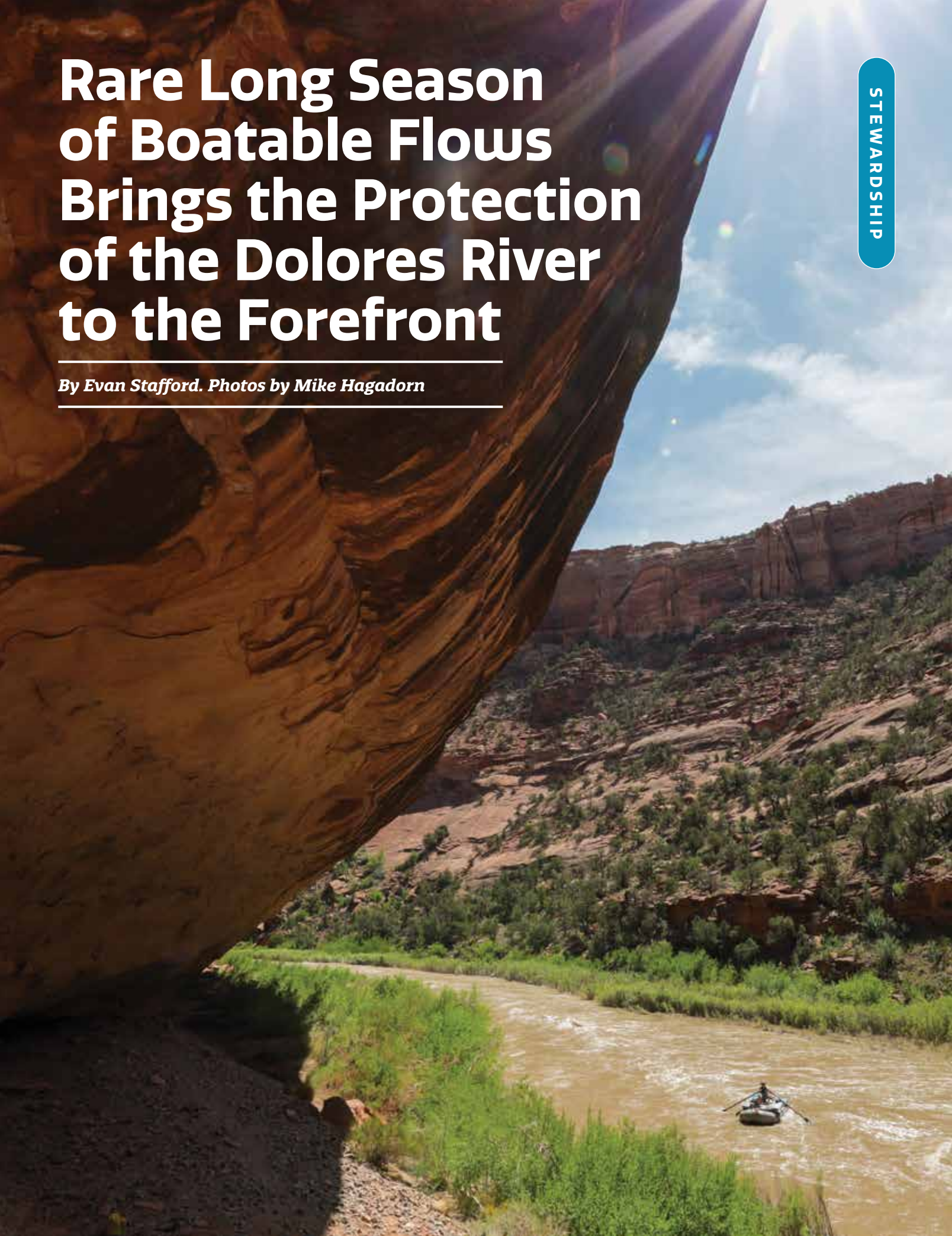




# Rare Long Season of Boatable Flows Brings the Protection of the Dolores River to the Forefront

*By Evan Stafford. Photos by Mike Hagadorn*

STEWARDSHIP





**SNOWPACK IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN COLORADO**

surpassed 200% of average this winter, enabling a historic season of river recreation on the Dolores River. Visitors from across the region, country, and the globe enjoyed plentiful flows in the nearly 200-mile stretch of river below McPhee Dam. The Dolores offers a variety of river experiences from exciting Class III and IV rapids in a unique forested redrock canyon, to a Class II float through a classic southwest desert sandstone labyrinth, with important Native cultural sites and incredible campsites throughout. American Whitewater has long been dedicated to negotiating, improving, and communicating downstream releases out of McPhee Dam.



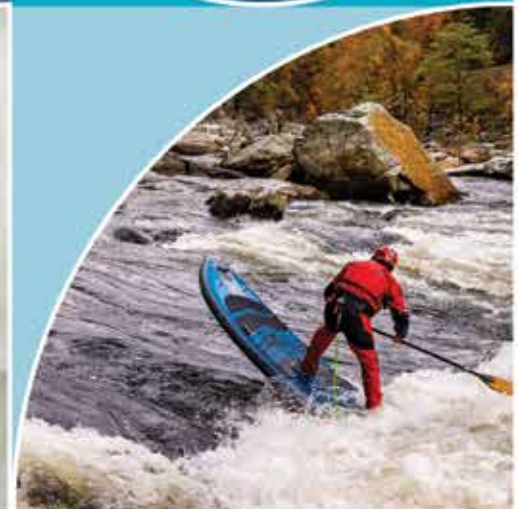
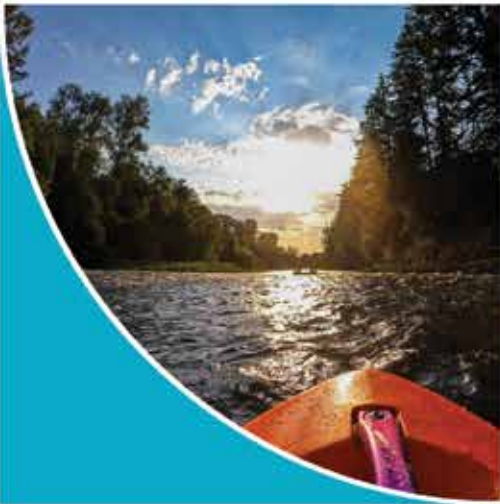


This past March, Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper introduced the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act, aimed at protecting over 68,000 acres of public lands in southwestern Colorado surrounding the river. Senator Bennet even enjoyed three days on the river with his family, seeing up close the incredible place he is dedicated to protecting for future generations. American Whitewater is supporting this bipartisan legislation through advocacy while also pushing for protections through a national monument that would include the northern portions of the river and its corridor as it meets the Colorado-Utah border.

American Whitewater continues to help shape how protections would affect the river and the recreation it provides. While these protective measures don't directly impact the water quantity and flow issues in the Dolores River Basin, they can provide important safeguards against further water development and other land-based impacts that affect biodiversity, scenery, and recreation, shining an important light on how those values rely on a thriving and functioning river system. ■







## **MISSION**

To protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

## **VISION**

That our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates.

Previous page photos, clockwise from top left: Brian Miller, Evan Stafford, Jacob Kupferman, David House, Kevin Colburn, Jacob Kupferman

## Dear Fellow Members,

As I reflect on the accomplishments of 2022, I am filled with gratitude for the strong support and dedication of our members, volunteers, partners, board, and staff. I joined the team late last year, so when reading these accomplishments it is with two minds. My appreciation as a dues-paying member in awe of the work that this team accomplished is accompanied by the sense of privilege and duty I feel as its new Executive Director to be standing alongside this crew upon the foundation they have built together.

In particular, I am proud of how American Whitewater has explored ways in which love for whitewater rivers can be a catalyst for community engagement on complex environmental issues. One such example is American Whitewater's mobilization of public support for the Katimiñ and Ameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act which protected 1,000 acres of land at the confluence of the Salmon and Klamath rivers in California by returning it to the Karuk Tribe. American Whitewater's role in marshaling public support to advance that legislation is in direct alignment with our nearly seventy year old mission to "...protect and restore America's whitewater rivers..." The name Karuk in the Tribal language means "upriver people," and the Karuk are the first stewards of these lands and waters. The restoration of these rivers depends upon the restoration of the people who have been protecting them through their cultural stewardship practices since time immemorial. This successful legislation is just one example representing an important evolution in the river stewardship strategies we embrace. And, it was the right thing to do.

In the western United States, we cannot talk about river stewardship without also talking about fires in the forests they flow through. For years following significant human-caused fires throughout Oregon and California the public saw river after river closed and paddlers excluded from our public lands and waters. In 2022, American Whitewater was able to successfully push several National Forests in California, as well as the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon, to reopen 220 miles of river to the public.

We also marked numerous stewardship wins across the country including new restored flows on both the Mongaup River in New York, and the Weber River in Utah, and secured new river access locations on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire, and the North Fork Feather River in California. Coupled with engagement on four Wild and Scenic River Bills, and three successful access lawsuits including a pivotal case in New Mexico in partnership with the Adobe Whitewater Club, American Whitewater has continued to both deliver on what is core, and innovate where needed to keep whitewater rivers and the paddlers who depend upon them at the center of our efforts.

As you browse the Impact Report, I invite you to explore the remarkable achievements of 2022, take stock of the diversity of work this team endeavors to tackle, and the fiscal soundness we apply to achieve it all. Importantly, please recognize your role and lasting impact in helping to make it all happen. You'll see me write this a lot because it's true: as a member, our successes are your successes. Celebrate these wins as your own! We couldn't do any of it without you.



Clinton Begley  
Executive Director



Chris Neuenschwander  
2022 Board Chair

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

*Linda Tribble and Britt Lindstrom:*

"We had been standard AW members for many years. The pandemic had many of us reevaluating our priorities. As we were restricted in what we could do and where we could do it, our love for whitewater rivers and our desire to protect these beautiful stretches of water intensified. Our response was to upgrade to a Lifetime AW membership. We have never regretted being a part of leaving a legacy for the next generation."



## FAMILY MEMBER

*David "Hojo" Hajoglou:*

"It's pretty simple, AW is the broadest organization with maintaining the natural beauty of our rivers. I grew up less than a mile from the Colorado River and appreciate the importance and beauty of healthy river ecosystems."



## ENDER CLUB MEMBERS

*James, Shelby, Bode, Scarlet, and Radian Barrett*

This whole family has individual Ender Club memberships!

"I have tried to instill a love of the river in all my kids since birth. Our rivers are always under attack from those wanting to get away with polluting and those who want to restrict access. American Whitewater is the force fighting to protect our rivers. I have the kids read the journal so they can get a better perspective on what AW does and what is at stake. We are three generations of kayakers, from both my parents (who also are AW members), to my kids. If you love Whitewater and it is your lifestyle, you need to do what you can to protect it and teach those who are learning to love it, what needs to be done to save it."





## 520

### MILES OF OUTSTANDING WATERS PROTECTIONS

Throughout Colorado

## 4

### HEARINGS ON WILD & SCENIC LEGISLATION

- M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act
- Montana Headwaters Legacy Act
- Smith River National Recreation Area
  - Wild Olympics



### SUPPORTING RIVER BACK LEGISLATION

Returning Klamath and Salmon River land to Karuk Tribe of California—Katimūn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act, Klamath & Salmon Rivers (CA), Elwha Project Lands Transfer to Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (WA)

### LEGISLATION PASSED

Inflation Reduction Act, funding towards significantly reducing the impacts of climate change on our fresh water streams and paddling opportunities

### RIVER PROTECTING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

- Dolores River NCA
- Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act (OR)

### AMICUS BRIEFS

Sackett v. EPA in the US Supreme Court



### LAWSUITS WON

- New Mexico River Access
  - Puyallup River (WA)
  - Tuolumne River (CA)

## 220

### MILES OF CLOSED RIVERS RE-OPENED

Throughout California, Punchbowl Falls (Eagle Creek, OR), Clackamas River (OR)



### CAMPAIGNS AGAINST NEW DAMS

- East Fork Virgin River (UT)
- Little Colorado River (AZ)
  - Upper Verde (AZ)
  - Cache la Poudre (CO)

## 2

### RIVERS WITH NEW WHITEWATER RECREATION FLOW RELEASES

- Mongaup (NY) • Weber (UT)

### RIVERS WITH NEW FLOW STUDIES

- Merrimack (MA) • West Canada Creek (NY)

### NEW STREAM GAGES

- Connecticut River (NH) • Weber River (UT)

### NEW RIVER ACCESS LOCATIONS

- Connecticut River (NH)
- North Fork Feather River (CA)



### RIVER SAFETY

- Open Source River Sign Guide
- River Inventory Website Upgrades
- Safety Films (2 new)

## 1

### NEW OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Massachusetts

# OUR COMMUNITY

## CHAMPIONS 100+

Board members  
Key volunteers  
Regional coordinators

## PATRONS 2,300+

Major donors  
Upper-tier partners  
Affiliate Clubs  
Enduring River Circle  
Members

## CONTRIBUTORS 4,400+

Members and  
small donors  
Contributing partners  
Volunteers  
Web contributors

## ENDORSERS 43,000+

Newsletter subscribers  
AW web user accounts  
Action takers  
Event attendees

## FOLLOWERS 150,000+

Social media followers  
Unique website visitors

**MEMBERS: 7,050**

**SUPPORTERS: 70,000**

**AFFILIATE CLUBS: 82**





## NATIONAL

American Whitewater played a role in three legislative victories in 2022 that speak to our mission, and our values, and exemplify our bipartisan approach to improving the laws of our Nation. We led an effort to require the Army Corps of Engineers to inventory and share the locations of all low head dams in the United States — a tool that will have significant safety and river restoration benefits. We stood with Tribal partners to support the Katimiñ and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act that returned over 1,000 acres of culturally and spiritually significant land along the Klamath and Salmon rivers (CA) to the Karuk Tribe. And lastly we successfully advocated for river-centric benefits in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Photo: Evan Stafford

## SOUTHEAST

The Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest is home to some of the wildest streams in the eastern United States, and American Whitewater has spent the past decade trying to improve their management through the National Forest planning process. In the summer of 2022 we filed an appeal of the draft forest plan and defended our claims in a tense hearing. The result of our appeal was that the North Fork of the French Broad was changed from ineligible to eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. This move yielded the river new interim protections and laid the groundwork for future Wild and Scenic designation for this classic whitewater run in the headwaters of Western North Carolina.

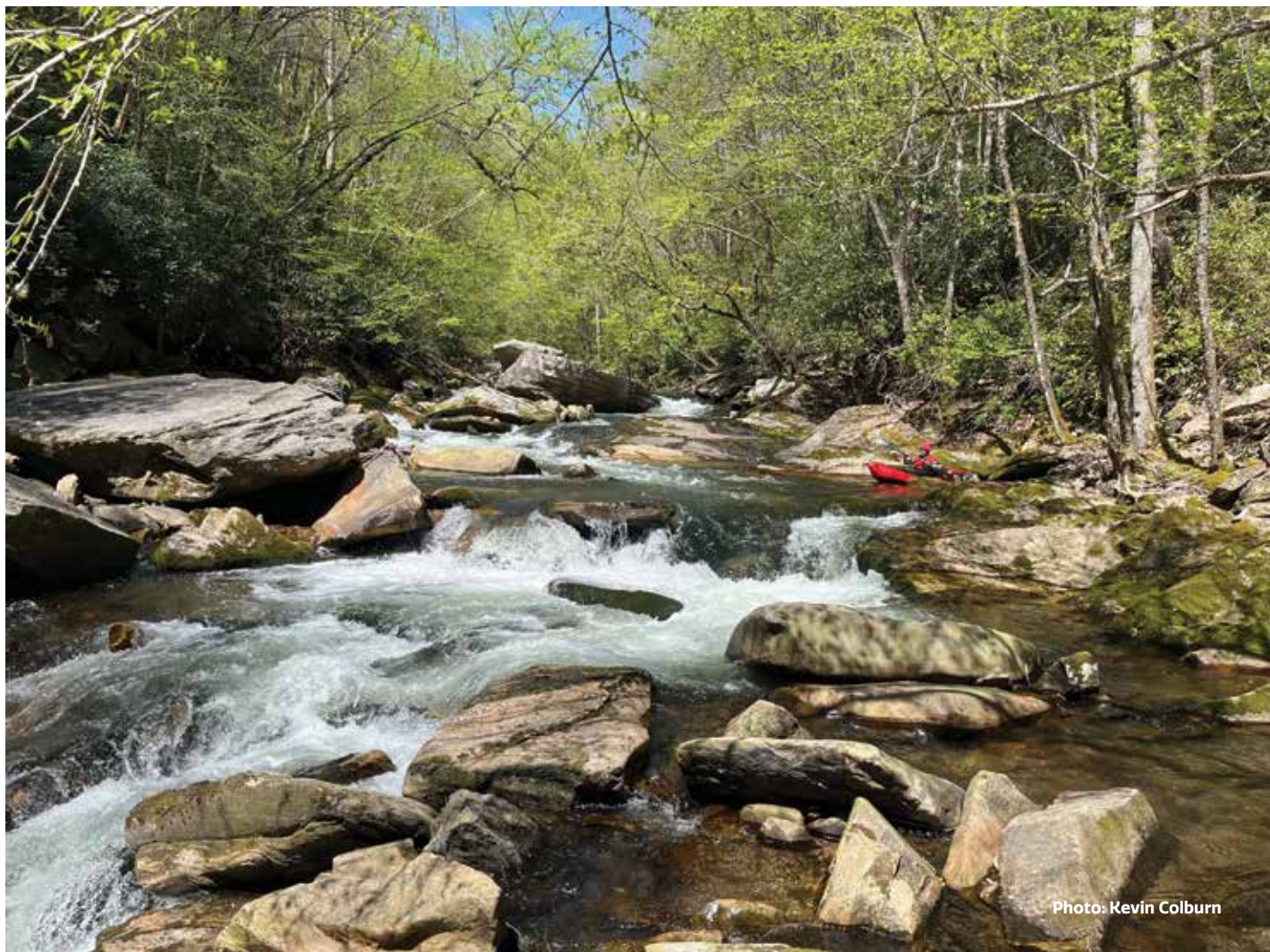


Photo: Kevin Colburn



Photo: Kevin Colburn

## MID-ATLANTIC

American Whitewater spent 2022 laying the groundwork for significant access and conservation outcomes, including on the Youghiogheny and Savage rivers. Pictured here, we collaborated on-site with Ohio State Park on a new design for the crumbling Loop Trail.

## NORTHEAST

American Whitewater spearheaded efforts to establish an Office of Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts. This year, Governor Baker announced the creation of the new office that will promote outdoor recreation through coordinating efforts of several environmental, recreation, and tourism agencies in the Commonwealth.



Commemorating the creation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts. Photo courtesy Bob Nasdor

## NORTHERN ROCKIES

Paddlers flocked to the curiously named Scrambled Eggs section of the Weber River in the summer of 2022 to enjoy the first ever whitewater releases. American Whitewater worked with local volunteer Charlie Vincent over several years to painstakingly negotiate these releases, and already they are a cause for local celebration. In an arid part of the West, where every drop of water is spoken for, these releases will offer close-to-home recreation for Northern Utah paddlers for decades to come.



Photo: Bill Hunt

## SOUTHERN ROCKIES

In June of 2022, we played a key role in securing water quality protections for 25 rivers in Colorado, including Lime Creek, the Taylor River, and Wolf Creek. Over 520 river miles were designated as Outstanding Waters by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission in the Gunnison, San Juan, San Miguel, and Dolores watersheds. American Whitewater spent two years conducting stakeholder outreach and collecting water samples on these rivers to make this a reality.



Photo: Logan Myers





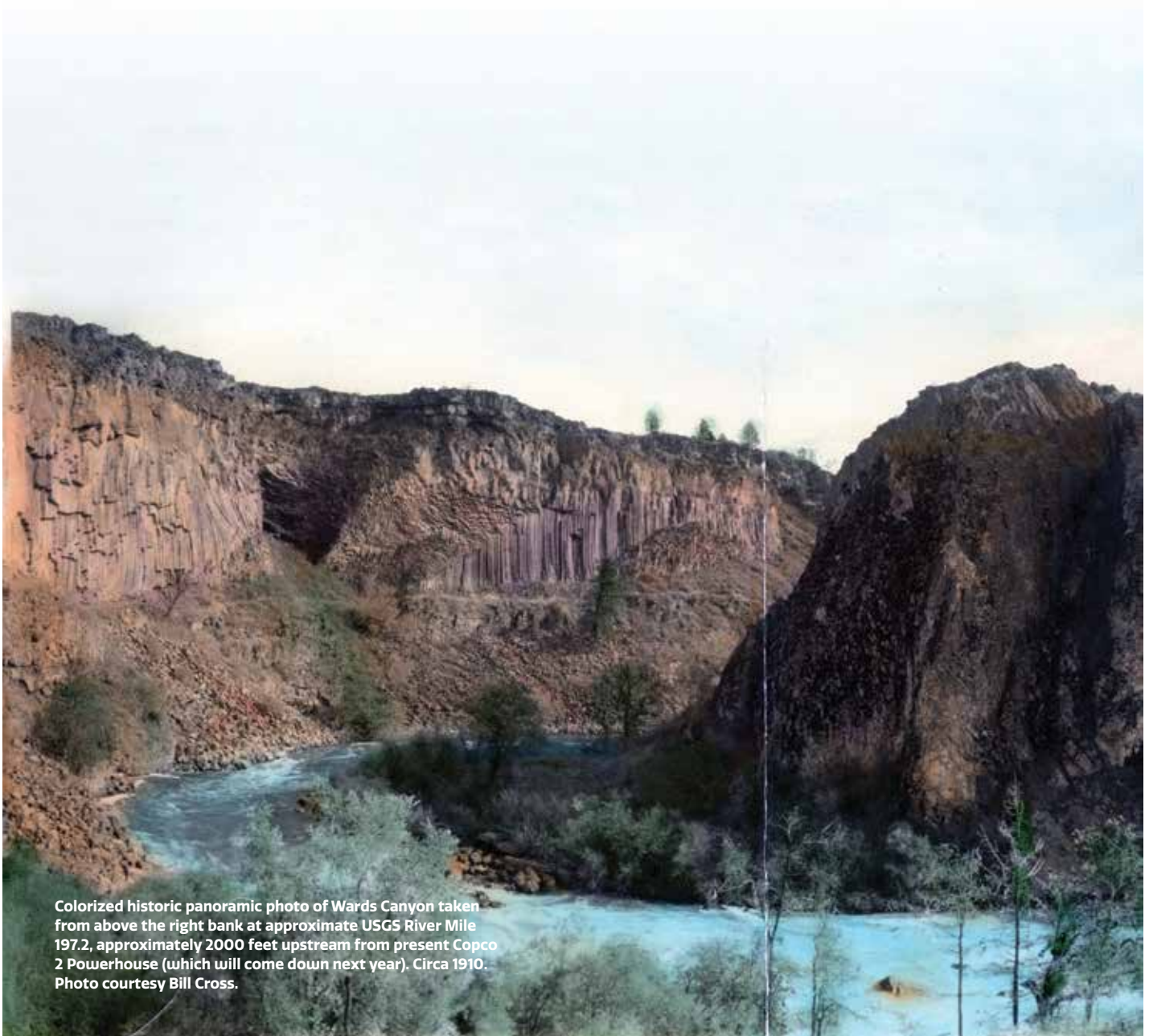
Photo: Dan Menten

## CALIFORNIA

In a win for the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Supreme Court recently denied a petition by Modesto Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District (the Districts) to hear an appeal that sought to overturn a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In 2022, American Whitewater and our allies prevailed in this case when the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld California's authority to require that the Districts' hydropower projects meet state water standards for beneficial uses, water quality, and anti-degradation of the Tuolumne River. The Supreme Court's denial of the petition ends a two-and-half-year battle and moves the hydropower relicensing processes closer to fruition which will restore flows on the lower Tuolumne and provide \$11.7 million in improvements to the Wards Ferry Take-out for the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In November 2022 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a surrender and decommissioning order for the hydropower facilities on the Klamath River. Following more than two decades of advocacy, led by indigenous communities in the basin, this represented the last major regulatory step for dam removal to proceed. We are pleased that the final order included specific measures to address recreational impacts including channel restoration of segments impacted by a century of hydropower operations, accommodations for access to a restored river, and a consultation requirement to minimize adverse effects on the recreational boating community during removal.



Colorized historic panoramic photo of Wards Canyon taken from above the right bank at approximate USGS River Mile 197.2, approximately 2000 feet upstream from present Copco 2 Powerhouse (which will come down next year). Circa 1910. Photo courtesy Bill Cross.

# ENDURING RIVERS CIRCLE

*The Enduring Rivers Circle honors and recognizes supporters dedicated to continuing their support of American Whitewater's river stewardship efforts indefinitely through a gift to American Whitewater in their legacy/estate planning.*

Barry Adams  
Rich and Stephanie Bowers  
Bob Brewer and Jonna Hussey  
Thomas Christopher  
Melissa and Joe Driver  
Kent Ford  
Jennie Goldberg  
Rorie Lin Gotham  
Joseph Greiner  
Christopher Hest  
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David Mason  
Megi Morishita  
Douglas Pineo  
Paul Schelp  
Norwood Scott  
Peter Skinner  
Peter Stekel  
Mark Taratoot  
Carol Nelson and Douglas Wallower  
Sally Wetzler



# LIFETIME MEMBERS

***Lifetime Members include a group of folks dedicated to supporting American Whitewater at the highest level. We are grateful for their support, many of whom contribute to our work on an annual basis.***

Michael and Susan Abernathy  
 Russell Abney  
 David Ackerman  
 Milt Aitken  
 Charlie Albright  
 Dick Almquist  
 Jon Almquist  
 Holly and Chase Ambler  
 Doug Ammons  
 Leif and Natalie Anderson  
 Jay Anderson  
 Aubrey Anderson  
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 Rich and Stephanie Bowers

Dave Bowman  
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| Ken Gfroerer and Aileen Lampman     | Dan Hoheim                       | Victor Kress and Dawn Meekhof    | Bob Metzger                        |
| Morgan and Elise Giddings           | Andrew Holcombe                  | Bill Krissoff                    | Carol and Mike Meyhoefer           |
| Nancy Gilbert                       | Paul Holmes                      | Sarah and Austin Krissoff        | Don and Audrey Millard             |
| Matt Gillum                         | Ann S. Hopkinson                 | Austin and Mac Kriz              | Robert Mingus                      |
| Brian Ginsberg                      | Richard Hopley                   | Jack Krupnick                    | Lindsey and Brad Modesitt          |
| Megan Glaab                         | Jason Huber                      | Gary Kuehn                       | Daniel Mongno                      |
| Paul Glasscock                      | Werner Huck                      | Bradley Kulbaba                  | Phil Montgomery                    |
| Saul Gleser                         | Watts Hudgens                    | Ken Kyser                        | Susan Moore and Bill Joerger       |
| David Glickerman                    | Rick Hudson                      | Andy and Wendy Laakmann          | Joshua Moore                       |
| Josh Goldbach                       | Ben Huneycutt                    | William LaFayette                | Robert Moore                       |
| Jennie Goldberg                     | Thomas Hungar                    | Jeanne Langan                    | Pete Morey                         |
| James C. Good                       | Marc Hunt and Cat Potts          | Troy Langley                     | Charles Morgan                     |
| Jacob Goodkin                       | Dennis and Ginny Huntley         | Mike Larimore                    | Megi Morishita                     |
| John C. Goodwin                     | Lester Hurrelbrink               | John Lawson                      | Alex Morris                        |
| George and Clarice Gordon           | Jon Irlbeck                      | Matt and Nicole LeBlanc          | Arianne Morrison                   |
| Karl and JoAnn Gordon               | Adrian Ishee                     | Gregory Lee                      | Stephen Muck                       |
| Stephen and Karen Gowins            | Jarred Jackman                   | Marcus Lees                      | Scott Murray                       |
| Shawn Graham                        | Kristine and Eric Jackson        | Brent Lehman                     | Timothy Narron                     |
| Gregory Grant and Paula Haynes      | Robert and Charlotte Jackson     | Ann Lehr                         | Mark Neitenbach                    |
| Brian and Caroline Green            | Nick and Kate Jacob              | Debbie and Todd Leonard          | Chris Neuenschwander               |
| Lee Green                           | Brian and Maria Jacobson         | Ben Levy                         | Douglas Nicholson                  |
| Joni Greenberger                    | John Jamnback                    | Marc Lewis                       | Eric Nies                          |

|  |  |                                   |                               |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| George Noe   | Deborah Reyes                            | Keirith Snyder                    | Kenny Unser                   |
| Ted and Karen Northup                                    | Timothy Reynolds                         | Sean Snyder                       | Nicholas Urquhart             |
| Roger Nott   | Johnson Rice                             | Matt Solomon                      | Lee Van Pelt                  |
| John Nutt  | Eric Richardson                          | Marv Sowers and Amy Pearsall      | William VanderKooy            |
| Thomas O'Keefe, Rie Yamazaki and<br>Aki and Taka O'Keefe | Lucas Rietmann                           | Susan Spaniol                     | David E. Vann                 |
| Philip O'Rourke  | Dave Robey                               | David Spiegel                     | Jim Veltrop                   |
| Frank Ohrt   | Brian Robin                              | Eli Spiegel                       | Charlie Vincent               |
| Keith Oldham   | Barry Robinson                           | Joel Spiegel                      | Stephen Vitale                |
| Eing Ong   | Stephen Robinson                         | Corey Spoores                     | Joan and Kurt Wade            |
| Benjamin Orkin   | Corey Robinson                           | Kevin St. John                    | Charlie and Sandy Walbridge   |
| George Orr Jr  | Matthew Rodgers                          | Aaron Stabel                      | William Walden                |
| Tim Overland   | Karl Rogers                              | Bruce Stajnrjh                    | Trinity Wall                  |
| James Oxford   | Richard Rollins                          | Kurt Stalnaker                    | David Wallace and Betsy Frick |
| Steven Pack  | Jesse Rosenzweig                         | Robert Stanley                    | Chip Wallingford              |
| Anne Pagano and Luke Hopkins                             | Fred Ruddock                             | Roger L. Starring                 | Cindy Walter                  |
| Eric Panebaker   | Eric Ruhl                                | Mary Starzinski                   | Michael Ward                  |
| Janet and Dave Panebaker                                 | Brett Russell                            | Chris Stec                        | Duke Warner                   |
| Aida Parkinson   | Lee Rust                                 | Kathryn Stege                     | Gordon Warren                 |
| James Parks  | Peter Ryan                               | Gordon Steindorf                  | Ryan Waterhouse               |
| Bill and Donna Holmes Parks                              | Roman Ryder                              | Dave Steindorf                    | Glenn Watt                    |
| Thomas Pasquarello                                       | Tim Ryle                                 | Peter Stekel                      | Christopher Weed              |
| Nicholas Paumgarten                                      | Lawton Salley                            | John Stelianou                    | Scott Weems                   |
| Tim and Annie Payne                                      | Chanchal Samanta and Deborah<br>Reichert | Sarah Stephenson                  | Sebastian Weiche              |
| James Pepin  | Neal and Brooke Sandford                 | Michael Stevi                     | Debbie and Kirk Weir          |
| Jeff Perizzolo   | Arnold Schaeffer and<br>Deborah Chandler | Michelle and Bryan Stewart        | Kate Wempe                    |
| Stephen Perkins  | Patricia Schifferle and Bob Gilliom      | Jason Stingl                      | Sally Wetzler                 |
| Benjamin and Melissa Peters                              | Fritz Schlereth                          | Edward Stockman                   | Michelle White                |
| Roderick Peterson  | Johanna Schneider                        | John Stow                         | Greg and Maria Whiteaker      |
| Lance Petrack-Zunich                                     | Tom Schneller                            | Andrew Stuart                     | Collin Whitehead              |
| William "B.J." Phillips                                  | Rick Schoen                              | David Su                          | Natalie Whiteman              |
| Don Piper  | Eric and Tera Schreiber                  | Alicia Sullivan                   | Harrison and Brooks Whitten   |
| Alex Placzek   | Norwood Scott                            | Mark Sullivan                     | Martin Wick                   |
| Graeme and Debra Plant                                   | Mark Scriver                             | Nicholas and Charlie Sutcliffe    | Greg Widroe                   |
| David Plott  | Roberta Scull                            | Collin Swan                       | Lisa Williams                 |
| Patrick Polan  | Leaf Seabrook                            | Thomas Sweeney                    | Kurt Williams                 |
| Rebecca Post   | Richard Seagraves                        | Michael Symonanis                 | Dock Williams                 |
| Sean Power   | David Seay                               | Josh von Szalatnay                | Cheyenne Wills                |
| Chris Prangle  | Chuck Seidler                            | Bill Tanger                       | John Wilson                   |
| Andrea Price   | Herman Senter                            | John Tarpey                       | Laura Wilson                  |
| Dixiemarree Prickett                                     | Pat Sheridan                             | Jeffrey Taschler                  | Susan Wilson                  |
| Nick Pritchard   | Ed Sherwood                              | Charles Taylor                    | Julianna Wilson               |
| Aaron and Tamsen Pruzan                                  | Christopher Shih                         | Jennifer Taylor                   | Courtney Wilton               |
| Joe and Lucy Pulliam                                     | Amy Shipman                              | Richard Thistle                   | Brandon Woerth                |
| Peter Quayle   | Jim Silavent                             | Brandon Thompson                  | John Wolken                   |
| Bill Queitzsch   | Jim and Iris Sindelar                    | Rick Thompson                     | Chloe Wonnell                 |
| Clifton Rabuffo  | Brian Sineath                            | Tim Thornton                      | Brandon Woods                 |
| Justin Rae   | Tom Sitz                                 | Charles Thornton                  | Greer Woody                   |
| Pete Rainey  | Peter Skinner                            | Howard and Joan Thullbery         | Carter and Wendy Wray         |
| Chris Ramko  | Brady Sleeper                            | Newton Tilson                     | Brad Xanthopoulos             |
| Morgan Randell   | Edwin Smalley                            | Marc Tohir                        | Gregory Young                 |
| Ken and Emily Ransford                                   | Michael Smith                            | Eric Tollefson                    | Brian Zabel                   |
| Mark Rasmus  | Aulton Smith                             | Patrick D. Tooley                 | Mark Zakutansky               |
| Harrison Rea   | Mike Smith                               | Linda Tribble and Britt Lindstrom | Art Zemach                    |
| Paul Reavley   | Stephen Smith                            | Nick and Emily Troutman           | Craig Ziegler                 |
| Brett Redfearn   | Thomas Smith                             | Phil Trunnell                     | Andy Zimmerman                |
| Brian Reeder   | Chris Sneed                              | Glen Tsaparas                     | Mikko and Oskar Zuchner       |
| Will Reeves  | James Sneeringer                         | Christopher Tulley                |                               |
| Robert Reiterman   |  | Barry and Kitty Tuscano           |                               |
|  |  | Caroline and Jakob Uecker         |                               |

# IN HONOR OF...

*Contributions to American Whitewater were made in honor of the following people in 2022*

American Whitewater Staff  
Hobbs and Henrik Anderson  
Alex Barham  
Justin Barstow  
Clinton Begley  
Chuck Cloninger  
John Coury  
Darius  
Phil & Mary DeRiemer  
JoAnne Dyer  
Heather Hansman  
John Hart  
High Water  
Josh Pecaric and Verus Kayaks  
Karuk Tribe and Land Back movement  
Scott and Devan Koehn  
VK Kovalik  
Dave Laub  
Greg Lee  
Lilley Washburn and Michael Egues  
Lisa Adams and Jay Miller  
Dave and Carolyn Millsap  
Van Parker  
Tom O'Keefe  
Percolator Consulting Staff  
Quenton Proctor  
RDH Foundation  
Sherry Samankasikum  
Chelsea & James Sanborn  
R. David Satterwhite  
Benjamin Scheib  
Michael Schreiber

Craig Schriber  
Mason Scott  
Sean and Kim  
Mark Singleton  
Pete Skinner  
The Watson Family  
Dave Whitehead  
Harris Wright  
Jerry Yang



Photo: Teresa Hess

Kathleen Anderson  
Shebli Arno  
Alan Baldwin  
John A Banks  
Frank Bering  
William C. Bradt  
Sean Buckley  
Carin Burford  
ChaseDOG  
Shannon Christy  
Jacob Aaron Clark  
Amelia Lee Cunningham  
Harold Deal  
Daniel DeLaVergne  
Derrel Fortner  
Josh Gartner

Gary Groen  
Jim Grossman  
John Huisjen  
Guy Hutchison  
Pat Isley  
Chuck Kern  
Adam Mayo  
Jonas Minton  
April Morton  
Rick and Alexandra Murray  
McKay Nutt  
Ricky Brandon Owens  
Alan Panebaker  
Liz Ritchie  
Norman Simms  
Dr. Frank Joe Singletary  
Patrick Webb  
Peter Weingarten, MD  
Elizabeth Williams  
Josh Wright

# IN MEMORY OF...

*Contributions to American Whitewater were made in memory of these people in 2022.*



Photo: Mike Curiak



# 2022 Statement of Activities

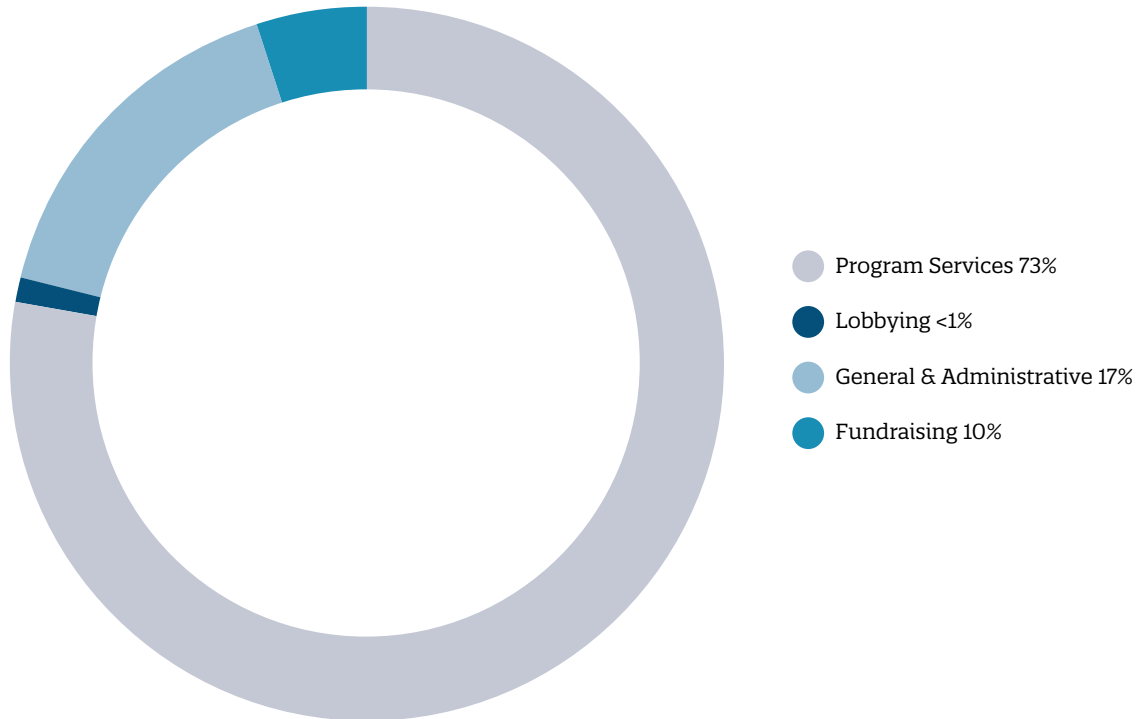
| <u>REVENUE</u>                       | <u>UNRESTRICTED</u> | <u>TEMPORARILY<br/>RESTRICTED</u> | <u>TOTAL 2022</u>   | <u>TOTAL 2021</u>   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>                |                     |                                   |                     |                     |
| Membership dues                      | \$ 512,917          |                                   | \$ 512,917          | \$ 534,052          |
| Grants                               | \$ 369,400          | \$328,675                         | \$698,075           | \$ 879,714          |
| Contributions                        | \$ 530,805          | \$ 31,162                         | \$ 561,967          | \$ 483,189          |
| Sponsorships/Corp Programs           | \$ 73,421           |                                   | \$ 73,421           | \$ 84,019           |
| Events                               | \$ 99,760           |                                   | \$ 99,760           | \$ 1,601            |
| In-Kind Contributions                | \$ 60,608           |                                   | \$ 60,608           | \$ 163,353          |
| Products                             | \$ 80,388           |                                   | \$ 80,388           | \$ 39,657           |
| Advertising                          | \$ 0.00             | \$ 0.00                           | \$ 0.00             | \$ 15,376           |
| Investment Gains/(losses)            | \$ 8,751            | \$(60,167)                        | \$ (51,416)         | \$ 47,459           |
| Interest & Dividends                 | \$ 7,927            | \$ 2,223                          | \$ 10,150           | \$ 6,571            |
| Misc. Income                         | \$ 1,155            |                                   | \$ 1,155            | \$ 2,247            |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$ 333,684          | \$ (333,684)                      | \$ 0.00             | \$ 0.00             |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>     | <b>\$ 2,078,816</b> | <b>\$ (31,791)</b>                | <b>\$ 2,047,025</b> | <b>\$ 2,257,238</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |                     |                                   |                     |                     |
| Program Services:                    |                     |                                   |                     |                     |
| <b>Total Program Services</b>        | <b>\$ 1,507,411</b> | <b>\$ -</b>                       | <b>\$ 1,507,411</b> | <b>\$ 1,586,033</b> |
| <b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>           |                     |                                   |                     |                     |
| General & Administrative             | \$ 349,221          | \$ -                              | \$ 349,221          | \$ 320,521          |
| Fundraising                          | \$ 212,790          | \$ -                              | \$ 212,790          | \$ 53,006           |
| <b>Total Supporting Services</b>     | <b>\$ 562,011</b>   | <b>\$ -</b>                       | <b>\$ 562,011</b>   | <b>\$ 373,527</b>   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                | <b>\$ 2,069,422</b> |                                   | <b>\$ 2,069,422</b> | <b>\$ 1,959,560</b> |
| <b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>    | <b>\$ 9,394</b>     | <b>\$ (31,791)</b>                | <b>\$ (22,397)</b>  | <b>\$ 297,678</b>   |

Financial figures in this report are provisional. A final Independent Auditor's Report and completed form 990 for fiscal year 2022 will be publicly available on our website this fall.

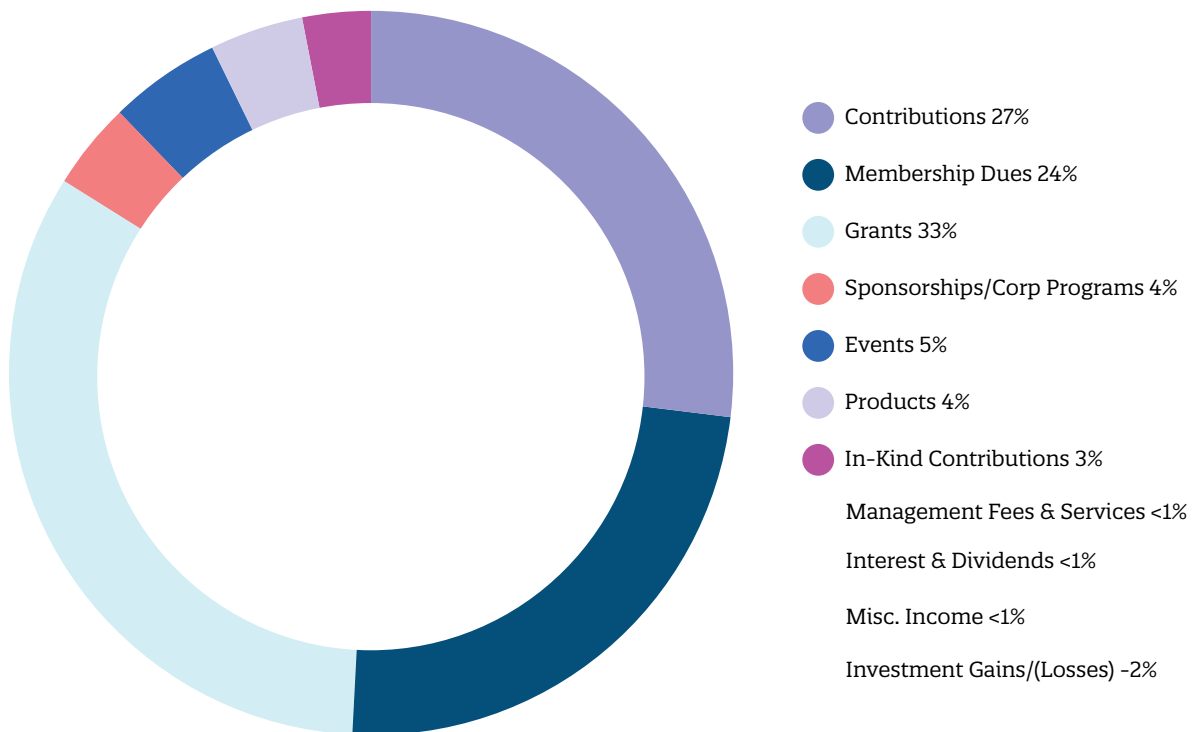
# 2022 Statement of Financial Position

| <u>ASSETS</u>                           | <u>2022</u>         | <u>2021</u>         |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                   |                     |                     |
| Cash                                    | \$ 1,146,182        | \$ 952,410          |
| Accounts Receivable                     | \$ 19,583           | \$ 8,510            |
| Grants Receivable                       | \$ 27,649           | \$ 47,841           |
| Investments                             | \$ 810,988          | \$953,371           |
| Prepaid Expenses                        | \$ 27,679           | \$27,097            |
| Intangible Assets                       | \$ 0.00             | \$ 0.00             |
| Inventory                               | \$ 33,668           | \$ 18,996           |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>             | <b>\$ 2,065,749</b> | <b>\$ 2,008,225</b> |
| <b>LONG-TERM ASSETS</b>                 |                     |                     |
| Lands held for protection               | \$ 58,317           | \$ 58,317           |
| Computer equipment, net                 | \$ 93,467           | \$ 122,631          |
| <b>Total Long-Term Assets</b>           | <b>\$ 151,784</b>   | <b>\$180,948</b>    |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b>\$ 2,217,533</b> | <b>\$ 2,189,173</b> |
| <br>                                    |                     |                     |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>  |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>              |                     |                     |
| Accounts Payable                        | \$ 81,295           | \$ 34,424           |
| Note Payable                            | \$ 0.00             | \$ 0.00             |
| Deferred Revenues                       | \$ 217,528          | \$205,666           |
| Payroll Liabilities                     | \$ 44,432           | \$ 52,408           |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>        | <b>\$ 343,255</b>   | <b>\$ 292,498</b>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                       |                     |                     |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                 | \$ 1,458,802        | \$ 1,449,408        |
| Restricted Net Assets                   | \$ 415,476          | \$ 447,267          |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                 | <b>\$ 1,874,278</b> | <b>\$ 1,896,675</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ 2,217,533</b> | <b>\$ 2,189,173</b> |

## 2022 Revenue Sources



## 2022 Functional Expenses



## Board of Directors

**Brent Austin**

Vice President  
*Cosby, TN*

**Melissa Driver**

*Mills River, NC*

**Lily Durkee**

*Fort Collins, CO*

**Christopher Hest**

*Chico, CA*

**Susan Hollingsworth Elliott**

*Lyle, WA*

**Brian Jacobson**

Treasurer  
*Long Creek, SC*

**Greg Lee**

*Portland, OR*

**April Montgomery**

*Norwood, CO*

**Megi Morishita**

*Trout Lake, WA*

**Chris Neuenschwander**

President  
*Pike Road, AL*

**Erin Savage**

Secretary  
*Mills River, NC*

**Chris Tulley**

*Folsom, CA*

**Charlie Walbridge**

Honorary  
*Bruceton Mills, WV*

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National Stewardship Director  
*Asheville, NC*

**Scott Harding**

Stewardship Associate  
*Forks of Salmon, CA*

**Hattie Johnson**

Southern Rockies Stewardship Director  
*Carbondale, CO*

**Kestrel Kunz**

Southern Rockies Associate Stewardship Director  
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**Robert Nasdor**

Northeast Stewardship Director  
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**Thomas O'Keefe**

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**Bethany Overfield**

Membership and Engagement Director  
*Canton, NC*

**Theresa Lorejo-Simsiman**

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*Citrus Heights, CA*

**Clinton Begley**

Executive Director  
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**Evan Stafford**

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*Fort Collins, CO*

**Dave Steindorf**

California Hydropower Specialist  
*Chico, CA*

**Laura Wilson**

Finance Director  
*Cullowhee, NC*



# Love and Whitewater (and Eventually Love of Whitewater Rivers)

By Peter Stekel



Photo: Jennie Goldberg

**SOME PEOPLE MARRY INTO MONEY. OTHERS, POWER** or prestige. Me? I married into whitewater. Me! Somebody who doesn't like getting wet. That's what love can do.

Love opens your eyes.

Love takes you down pathways.

Love brings you to rivers and deeply into experiences you never would have previously considered. Contemplated. Thought of. Expected.

Love, and what it brings to you, is like running a river for the first time. Each following run exposes you more and more to the eddies and riffles of life and living with somebody else. That, and the rapids, rocks, pour overs, easy ways, sneak routes, and those special ways to slide on past the hard parts. Of course, each person's ability is the essence of their safety on the river.

Truth be told, I go down rivers like the Wicked Witch of the West. That is, I'm screaming, "I'm melting! I'm melting!" But there's nothing like drying off at the end of the day and sitting around the ole campsite or at the house of a friend, adult beverage in hand, reflecting on how wondrous it is being able to enjoy a wilderness river.

Urban rivers too.

And all those rivers in between.

Or how great it is to dip a paddle into other bodies of water as well like lakes and ponds and estuaries.

We are all haunted by water, aren't we?

Why is it great to be able to do all this? For lots of reasons. Any such list of reasons would be endless because there are lots

and lots and lots of them. But all those reasons pale in comparison to the Big Daddy reason of them all. Access. Without access, we would all be hanging out at the pub discussing what we would do if we could do. So, for access? We owe a river full of thanks to American Whitewater.

You know this already, right? Because you're reading the AW Journal this very moment. This means either you're an American Whitewater member or on excellent terms with somebody who is and found their copy lying around the house. Either way, you're in a special class. Maybe not Class V but easily Class IV. And all the way up to Class I where we all begin.

Anyway, I'll say it about AW—just to be sure the message gets across.

Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501c(3) river conservation organization. There are about 7,000 of us special few with 85 locally-based affiliate clubs. AW's mission (that is—our mission—yours and mine and theirs), is to protect and restore our country's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. AW does this by being the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of these rivers throughout the United States. This work is done by connecting the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to educate policy-makers and the public to the value of free-flowing rivers.

Who benefits from this advocacy? We do, of course. We paddlers; we few, we happy few, we band of brothers and sisters. We benefit for sure. No doubt. But anglers do too. Hikers as well. As do birders, botanizers, and other nature lovers. Or, even people whose only desire is to sit by a river, a lake, or a stream and listen to the water as it slips past. Even non-recreationist families benefit when they seek a seat on a rock or a beach by a river to enjoy a picnic. Even the kid on the bank who is skipping stones benefits. None of this would be possible without access.

But our rivers are constantly being challenged by a range of threats including access closures. Of course, rivers are also threatened by dams and water withdrawals. That's where AW comes in as our advocate to keep America's rivers free for everyone to use.

Would you believe rising to this challenge is not without expense, time, and commitment? Expertise too. American Whitewater does it all with a professional staff, distributed regionally, of 12 people. They handle all the heavy lifting such as testifying before Congress and educating the public. There is also a coterie of volunteers that help out too. As the saying goes, they help "chop wood and carry water."

There are many ways to support the AW mission. A yearly membership is a good start. Covering your gear with AW decals is a fine way to demonstrate how much you care about our rivers to fellow paddlers. So is gracing your river buggy with an AW license plate holder.

How's your bank account? Because becoming a lifetime member is great. It fattens the coffers! Contributing extra dollars each year is wonderful because you get some nifty swag for chipping in those extra bucks. Check online for the latest, greatest. The swag (they call it "incentive gifts") changes from time to time and has been donated by AW retail and gear manufacturing "Partners." This is one way they have of not only supporting AW, but of giving back something to you.

Which brings me to a really big way to contribute to AW. Make a difference to the present and our future by making a bequest to American Whitewater from your estate after your death. Like Jim Morrison supposedly said, "Nobody is getting out of here alive." So, why not make it count? American Whitewater calls this kind of contribution the "Enduring Rivers Circle." It's how your contribution to AW continues to support American Whitewater in the near term and far into the future.

Well, ok. Getting back to that bit about marrying into whitewater and not liking to get wet. It's true on both counts. And besides the obvious advantages of being married to a wonderful person, I have developed a deep and abiding appreciation of what water means and an equally deep and abiding understanding for how important access to rivers is to everyone, paddler and non-paddler alike. I know now how we need to ensure that not every river is plugged and not every river is dewatered. American Whitewater is here to do that and I'm happy they are.

With all of this in mind I decided to participate in the American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle program to make a significant contribution to the organization from my estate after my death. I believe the Enduring Rivers Circle program is an excellent way to leave a legacy, not only to AW, but to the rivers that have meant so much to my lovely wife, and now me, and all the wonderful paddlers I have met in my time on rivers. Because they have all made a lasting—dare I say, enduring—difference in my life.

Please think about doing the same. When you do, you'll realize how only a river can make things right. And you will feel good about your contribution. I promise. ■

Photo by Austin Seback

It's never too early to think about leaving a lasting legacy to the rivers 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 Bethany Overfield at 1.866.262.8429 or [bethany@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:bethany@americanwhitewater.org)*



Rememberance:

# Legendary West Coast Kayaker Walt Harvest

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*By Jerry Meral*

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## **WALT HARVEST, AN OUTSTANDING CALIFORNIA KAYAKER**

from the '60s and '70s, died on May 10, 2023. He was 85. He is fondly remembered by the Bay Area paddling community for his fun-loving attitude, willingness to teach, and wicked sense of humor. Walt built his first kayak with his father back in the '50s when kayaks were a real novelty. He was a leader of the Sierra Club Bay Chapter River Touring Section when many of the early runs on now-classic rivers were made. Twice a national champion slalom kayaker ('63 and '65), he traveled all over the U.S. and Europe to compete.

Walt worked for the Alameda County Department of Public Works but lived to kayak. Knowing Walt meant knowing his whole family, including his paddling partner and first wife Kay, all three of his sons, and his buddy Francisco. Not to mention his father Ove, who helped build kayaks in the family basement. These boats were advertised for sale in American Whitewater starting in 1961.

Walt and some of his early paddling compatriots did not wear PFDs. They felt that a life vest would trap a swimming paddler in reversals, preventing them from diving into the fast water beneath the hole. But he finally came around and endorsed using



PDFs. He and his father invented "Harvest Bags," which when inflated and inserted in kayaks and canoes greatly increased flotation and simplified rescues. Before these bags came into use, rescues of water-filled boats were often difficult. Today, float bags are standard equipment for whitewater kayakers.

Walt is memorialized by "Harvest Hole." At very high water on the Tuolumne River the hole is created by a huge rock at the bottom of Rock Garden, the first major rapid after the put-in. In 1969 Walt and other Sierra Club boaters decided to tackle the Tuolumne at 18,000 cfs. For context, normal flows in the summer are around 1100 cfs. Walt and former AW Executive Director Jim Sindelar, paddling C2, went into the gigantic hole. Jim was washed out but Walt recycled in the backwash three times without anything more than his tiny blue homemade helmet showing above the surface. Walt had an ability to hold his breath for minutes at a time and survived this misadventure. After he was rescued, the group abandoned the run, forcing the participants to crawl up a steep talus slope to the road.

In 1995, Walt, Bert Welti, and Joel Deyoung all put in late in the afternoon on the Middle Fork of the Yuba. This stretch of the Yuba only has enough water in big runoff years. They had all kayaked this stretch 10 years earlier and knew they had light until 9:00 p.m. Within a mile, they knew circumstances had changed: smaller trees remembered from ten years earlier were now grown, creating numerous dangerous strainers at the day's high water levels. Passage was slowed by tedious scouting. The sun went down and they were caught in a rugged canyon with no overnight gear. They waited for the full moon to come up, abandoned their gear, and climbed more than 1,000 feet out of the canyon in one of life's great adventures that will never be repeated but will long be remembered.

In a more recent adventure, Walt joined other River Touring Section veterans for a kayak trip on Battle Creek. Part of the party separated, and Walt and Charles Martin brought up the rear. Soon the sun set, and they were forced to spend the night on the rocks. They joined the rest of their colleagues at the motel the next morning.

Walt's legendary sense of humor revealed itself on the North Fork of the American. Mike Chamberlain, who had never run the river, asked Walt's advice on running a steep, unnamed drop, apparently not noticing that Walt would be filming his run. Walt suggested that Mike should try backpaddling at the top. Mike got caught in the hole at the bottom of the drop, flipped, missed his roll, and came out of his boat. With some effort, Mike made his way to the rock wall on the left and had begun climbing up the wall when the water's turbulence lifted his boat—a standard four-meter kayak—until it stood on end

and smacked Mike right off the wall! As John Googins would say when showing the film, it was like a giant flyswatter hitting a fly. To this day, the drop is known as Chamberlain Falls.

Walt's sense of humor sometimes got the best of him. At the 1964 National Championships on the Feather River, he playfully picked up a rattlesnake and walked around with it. It bit him; he was taken to the hospital and he missed the race. Walt and his first wife Kay were among the best C2 pairs in the country. They would arrive at the lunch spot and pull out a small table, tablecloth, wine glasses and an elegant lunch, showing up the rest of the crew who were eating soggy sandwiches. Amazingly enough, they were able to run their huge boat down the Class V Box Canyon of the Sacramento, which is incredibly tight and rocky.

Walt also worked as a guide for Sierra Mac River Trips and made one of the first raft runs down the Cherry Creek section of the upper Tuolumne, a Class V run.

Once a group of boaters was waiting for a shuttle to return at the Lumdsen Campground on the Tuolumne when a herd of cattle was being driven up the road. Walt started hazing the cattle and making them run around. A cowboy came over to the group and chewed them out, telling them not to rile his cattle. We all reacted contritely but then, looking around, wondered, "Where was Walt?" After the cowboy left, the out-house door opened and Walt sheepishly poked this head out and asked if the coast was clear.

On another Tuolumne adventure, Walt dared two of us to go into Steamboat Hole after him. We foolishly took him up on the bet. He went in first, and after a while looked over his shoulder at us with his typical sh\*t-eating grin. He couldn't get out, and he was certainly the strongest paddler in our group. Finally, he pried his way out, and we had to dive in, one after the other. Both of us swam out of the hole.

An avid cyclist, he rode in the 545-mile AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles at the age of 65. He had a long and happy retirement (after 40 years with the Alameda County Public Works Department), creating art sculptures in his shop, fixing anything remotely fixable, and taking up ping-pong as fiercely as he did other sports.

As he said, he was "lucky" and was always grateful for it. He is survived by his wife, Julie, sons Ken, Scot and Mike, five grandchildren, and dozens of friends. He will be sorely missed. Thanks to Bert Welti, Charles Martin, Dick Sunderland, Joel Deyoung, Julie Harvest, and Jim Sindelar for contributions to this obituary. ■

# I Dreamt of The Canyon

*Riah Risk*

I forgot how long it had been since I'd been in the rain.  
The smell,

The static electricity in the air.

I watch lightning erupt out of the sky from a distance,  
and a restlessness washed over me.

I crave walls of water cascading over the Red Wall.  
Stories of waterfalls written in rock, abandoned,  
but ever prolific.

I yearn for the clear waters of the Colorado to return  
to their natural status, thick and silty, carrying the water color  
of the painted Red Wall back into the river.

There is an energy in the air when it happens.  
How fast does it happen...you might wonder, how quickly  
will the blood, life force, of the earth muddle?

It's a mere moment.

Before you have time to settle into the awe of the cascades  
of water coming over the canyon walls.  
A flash, a whisper, a skip of a heartbeat.

Sometimes just as quickly, it stops. It is the desert after all.

But then the magic really starts to happen. The walls glisten,  
peacocking colors normally hidden in the dry heat.  
Becoming even more three dimensional, giving a truth to the  
depth of the overhangs, crevices and caves.

The moss radiates a fluorescent green,  
reveling in the unexpected drink.  
Song birds percolate their vocal cords in a mad, joyous,  
energized dash for the bugs stirred up by the moisture.

Life becomes life and we get to bear witness.

While your skin begins to warm in the sunshine,  
you may notice side streams still seeping into their mother.  
Depositing rich nutrients into the heart of the river.

Suddenly the skies peel open and it is a blue  
like you've never seen

A color so often used to denote sadness  
but all I can feel is elated.

The desert spiny, collared lizards and chuckwallas emerge  
from their nooks and crannies, sitting atop the hot rocks,  
their reptilian nature manifesting a constant heat.  
But even they know that the rain is a good thing.

My oars creak in their oar locks as I stand to hold my head  
closer to the sky and wrestle with the trickster eddy  
attempting to pinwheel our boats out  
of the thin seam of current.

We dance with the boils.

The second you surrender to the river  
is the moment you start becoming one with her.

So often in "rim world" my mind lingers, but not down here.

Entrenched in conversation with people I've just met who will  
soon become my family.

I revel in the trust they so bravely relinquish over to us.

What an incredibly powerful human experience.  
The wonder exuded is unfathomably contagious.

A hummingbird was, at one point, just a hummingbird.  
But then it evolves into a sign of good omen.  
A rock was, at one point, just a rock. Until it's explained  
the force and pressure and battle with gravity it has endured.  
A tale, a map, an epilogue of the legendary oceans  
and sand dunes this place has been writing for billions of years.

We watch you, as novice river explorers develop  
a more keen eye. Spotting the great blue heron before we do.  
We fall into speechlessness as you intuitively listen for the  
thunder of white water emerging downstream.

I had forgotten how long it had been since I'd been in the rain...  
but how do I love watching those around me learn  
to dance in it.

# Community Events

## NORTHEAST

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### Beaver River Rendezvous

Snow Ridge Ski Resort, 4173 W Rd, Turin, NY 13473

September 1st - 4th.

Host: Backyard Boat Shop

*The river festival with the most different sections releasing on the East Coast, as well as the King of New York series of class V races. Action packed schedule with the following sections releasing: Moose River, Stone Valley of the Raquette, Taylorville, Eagle, and Moshier sections of the Beaver, Black River, Salmon River, and Hudson Gorge!*

Web: [www.facebook.com/beaverriverrendezvous](http://www.facebook.com/beaverriverrendezvous)

Contact: Alex Barnham

Email: [alex@backyardboatshop.com](mailto:alex@backyardboatshop.com)

### West Forks Riverfest

Ballfield road, West Forks, Maine 04985

08/12/2023-08/13/2023

Host: Dead River Productions LLC

*Country river festival featuring the Maine Whitewater Kayak Championship, various whitewater manufacturers and local vendors. Live music, giveaways and charity events for the whole family.*

Web: [www.westforksriverfest.com](http://www.westforksriverfest.com)

Contact: Noah Hale

Email: [Westforksriverfest@gmail.com](mailto:Westforksriverfest@gmail.com)

## SOUTHERN ROCKIES

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### Sunni Gunni Costume Float & River Celebration

Gunnison Whitewater Park

Saturday, August 26th

Host: Gunnison River Festival

*This event will take place on Saturday, August 26th from 10am to 2pm at the Gunnison Whitewater Park along the Gunnison River. The Sunni Gunni Costume Float & River Celebration is an outreach event for all types of river users to highlight what our local rivers mean to our bodies, minds and spirits as well as to spread awareness of river safety, water conservation, river etiquette and stewardship.*

Web: [www.gunnisonriverfestival.com/](http://www.gunnisonriverfestival.com/)

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063443810566](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063443810566)

Contact: Cheryl Cwelich

Email: [ccwelich@ugruwcd.org](mailto:ccwelich@ugruwcd.org)

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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### Hidalgo Falls Texas River Festival

5342 Camp Road

Navasota, Texas 77868

October 14-15, 2023

Host: Texas Rivers Protection Association/Paddlesports Outpost/Texas A&M

*Kayak and canoe instruction for beginner to intermediate from certified ACA instructors all across Texas. Other festival vendors include Texas Parks and Wildlife Boater Education, local Texas Game Wardens, Washington County EMS Swiftwater Rescue Team, Texas A&M, local parks, USGS, National Park Service, food vendors and others.*

Web: [TXRivers.org/HidalgoFalls](http://TXRivers.org/HidalgoFalls)

[m.facebook.com/groups/273936036005972/](https://m.facebook.com/groups/273936036005972/)

Contact: Patti Carothers

Email: [PaddlesportsOutpost@gmail.com](mailto:PaddlesportsOutpost@gmail.com)

## INTERNATIONAL

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### Jondachi Fest

Tena-Napo-Ecuador

January 19 - 21, 2024

Host: Ecuadorian Rivers Institute

*A celebration of the value and importance of the Jondachi River as a free-flowing Andean Amazon river corridor and world-class paddle sports destination. Includes Class V whitewater kayak race on the Upper Jondachi, rafting on the Jondachi-Hollín Rivers, and flatwater dugout canoe and kayak races for novices on the Napo River. Whitewater river festival, social event, traditional music, dancing, mountains, jungle, paddling, dancing, hiking, biking, waterfalls, bird watching, petroglyphs, and more! The Jondachi Fest promotes the preservation of the proposed Jondachi-Hollín-Misahuallí-Napo ecological corridor. There are nominal registration fees for races and organized activities. Registration opens in January, 2-3 weeks prior to the event.*

Web: <https://ecuadorianrivers.org/jondachi-fest/>

[www.facebook.com/jondachifest/](https://www.facebook.com/jondachifest/)

Contact Person: Matt Terry

Contact email: [jondachifest@ecuadorianrivers.org](mailto:jondachifest@ecuadorianrivers.org)



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## AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

By Bethany Overfield

American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has included distribution of information among its Affiliate Clubs. 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.

American Whitewater has two levels of Affiliate Clubs - a Supporting Affiliate Club or an Affiliate Club. Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$100 annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$100 contribution.

Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$400 Supporting Affiliate Club annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll as well as being listed as sponsors of an AW stewardship presentation each year. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$400 contribution. A Supporting Affiliate Club can revert to the \$100 Affiliate Club annual level at any time.

An Affiliate Club that is already being recognized as an AW Lifetime member is recognized in the annual Honor Roll as a Lifetime member. They do need to contribute either at the \$100 or the \$400 level annually to be recognized as an Affiliate Club in the *AW Journal* and under the Affiliate Club heading of the published Honor Roll. Is your club missing from this list? It might have expired. Contact me at [membership@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:membership@americanwhitewater.org) to square your club membership away!

## AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATE CLUBS

### SUPPORTING AFFILIATE CLUBS

#### Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

#### Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

#### California

Smith River Alliance, Crescent City

#### Colorado

Dolores River Boating Advocate, Dolores  
Colorado Whitewater Association, Denver

#### Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Association Inc, Winston

#### Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Association, Lexington  
Vikings Canoe Club, Louisville

#### Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston

#### New York

KCCNY, Brooklyn

#### North Carolina

West Asheville Canoe and Kayak Organization (WACKO), Asheville

#### Ohio

Keelhaulers, Cleveland

#### Oregon

Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland

#### South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville  
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

#### Washington

Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle  
Washington Kayak Club, Redmond  
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

### AFFILIATE CLUBS

#### Alaska

Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

#### Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka  
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

#### Arizona

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

#### California

Redwood Empire Paddlers, Santa Rosa  
River City Whitewater Club, Sacramento  
Wildflower Sacramento River Trip, Sacramento  
Cold Country Paddlers, Placerville

#### Colorado

Diversify Whitewater, Fort Collins  
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs  
High Country River Rafters, Wheat Ridge  
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, Buena Vista  
Royal Gorge River Initiative Org, Canon City  
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride  
Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club, Longmont,  
Upper Colorado Private Boaters Assoc., Glenwood Springs

#### Connecticut

New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association, Meriden

#### Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

#### Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

#### Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburg

#### Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

#### Kentucky

Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington

#### Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

#### Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore  
Blue Ridge Voyagers, Rockville

#### Minnesota

Northland Paddlers Alliance, Duluth  
Rapids Riders, Eagan

#### Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis  
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield

#### Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

#### Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

#### New Mexico

Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, Albuquerque

#### New Hampshire

Merrimack Valley Paddlers, Merrimack  
New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association, Contoocook

#### New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

#### New York

Zoar Valley Paddling Club, East Aurora

#### North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh  
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee  
Mind Body Play, Asheville



**Ohio**

Friends of the Crooked River, Akron  
Columbus Paddling Club, Columbus

**Oregon**

Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland  
North West Rafters Association, Roseburg  
Oregon Whitewater Association, Portland  
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

**Pennsylvania**

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)  
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg,  
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley  
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia  
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Bridgeville

**Tennessee**

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Jonesborough  
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville  
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee, Sevierville,  
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge  
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Nashville  
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Knoxville

**Texas**

Houston Canoe Club, Inc., Houston

**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  
Canoe Cruisers Association, Middleburg  
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond  
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

**Washington**

Northwest Whitewater Association, Spokane,  
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane,  
Yakima River Runners, Selah

**Washington, DC**

Canoe Cruisers Association

**West Virginia**

Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Bolivar  
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

**Wisconsin**

North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah  
Rapids Riders, Eagan  
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

**Wyoming**

American Packrafting Association, Wilson  
Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

**National**

Team River Runner

**CANADA**

**Ontario**

Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers

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**DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS**

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 \$25/year Affiliate Club Member option online at [www.americanwhitewater.org/join](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/join).

A list of Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website under the Community/Clubs tab. If you notice your club missing from our list, please encourage club leaders to renew their club membership or join American Whitewater as a new Affiliate Club.

Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable American Whitewater Staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship across the country. Your membership support helps to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face. If you have questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please reach out to Bethany Overfield at [membership@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:membership@americanwhitewater.org).

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**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 bimonthly *American Whitewater 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 Bethany Overfield:  
[membership@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:membership@americanwhitewater.org)  
...or sign-up on line: [www.americanwhitewater.org/membership](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/membership).

# AMERICAN WHITEWATER PARTNERS

## \$20,000 – Class V



## \$10,000 – Class III



## \$7,500 – Class II



## \$5,000 – Boof



## \$2,500 – Wave





**TESTING THE SURGE**

Paddler - Ben Stookesberry  
Location - Priest River, Idaho  
Photo - Chris Korbolic

# HANDCRAFTED IN THE PNW

Built in Washington State, USA by our highly skilled team – each and every paddle we handcraft is thoroughly tested and inspected before you put it through its paces. For decades, our legendary bomber reputation has instilled confidence making the most extreme rivers approachable and your local run more fun.



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PADDLES**