



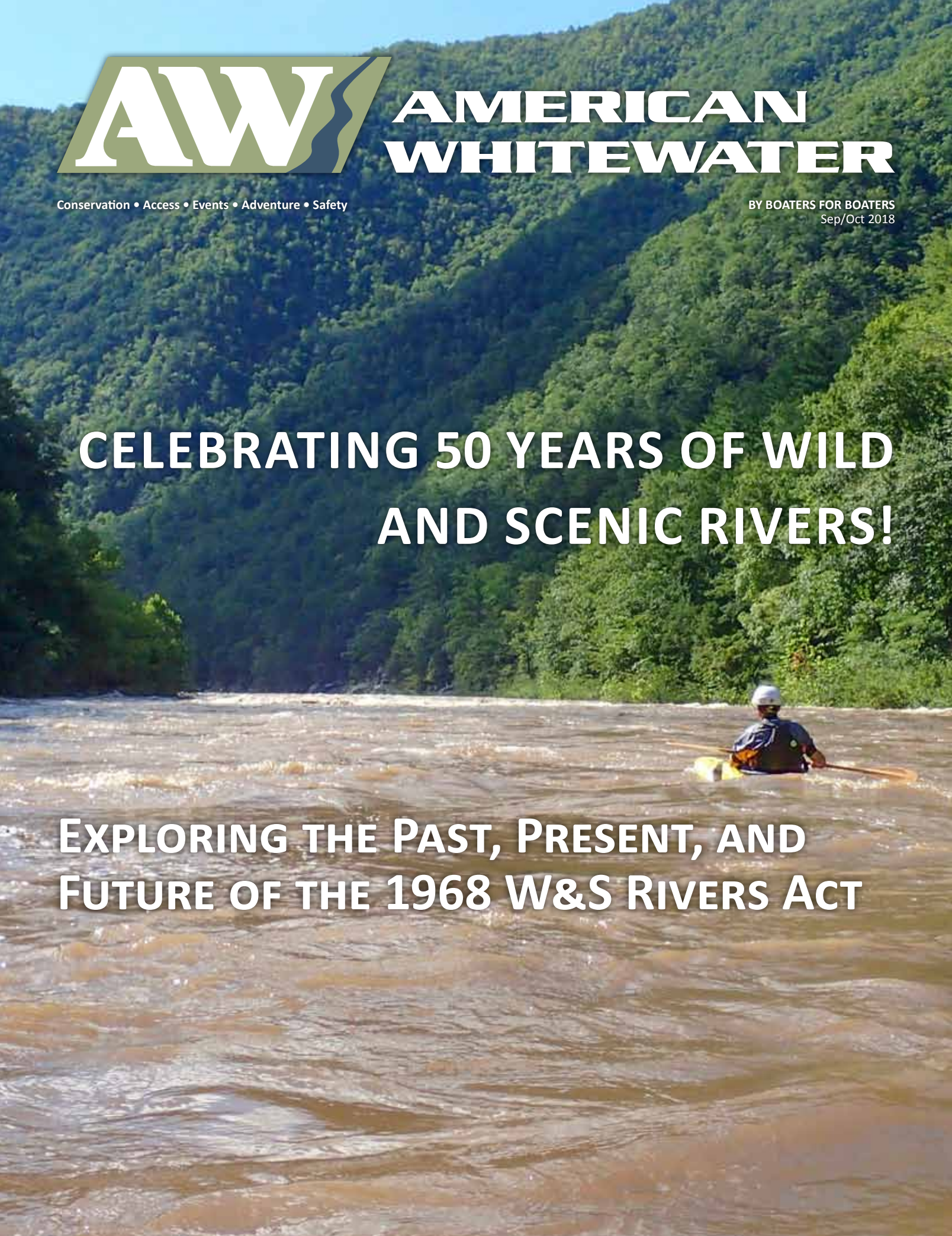
AMERICAN WHITEWATER

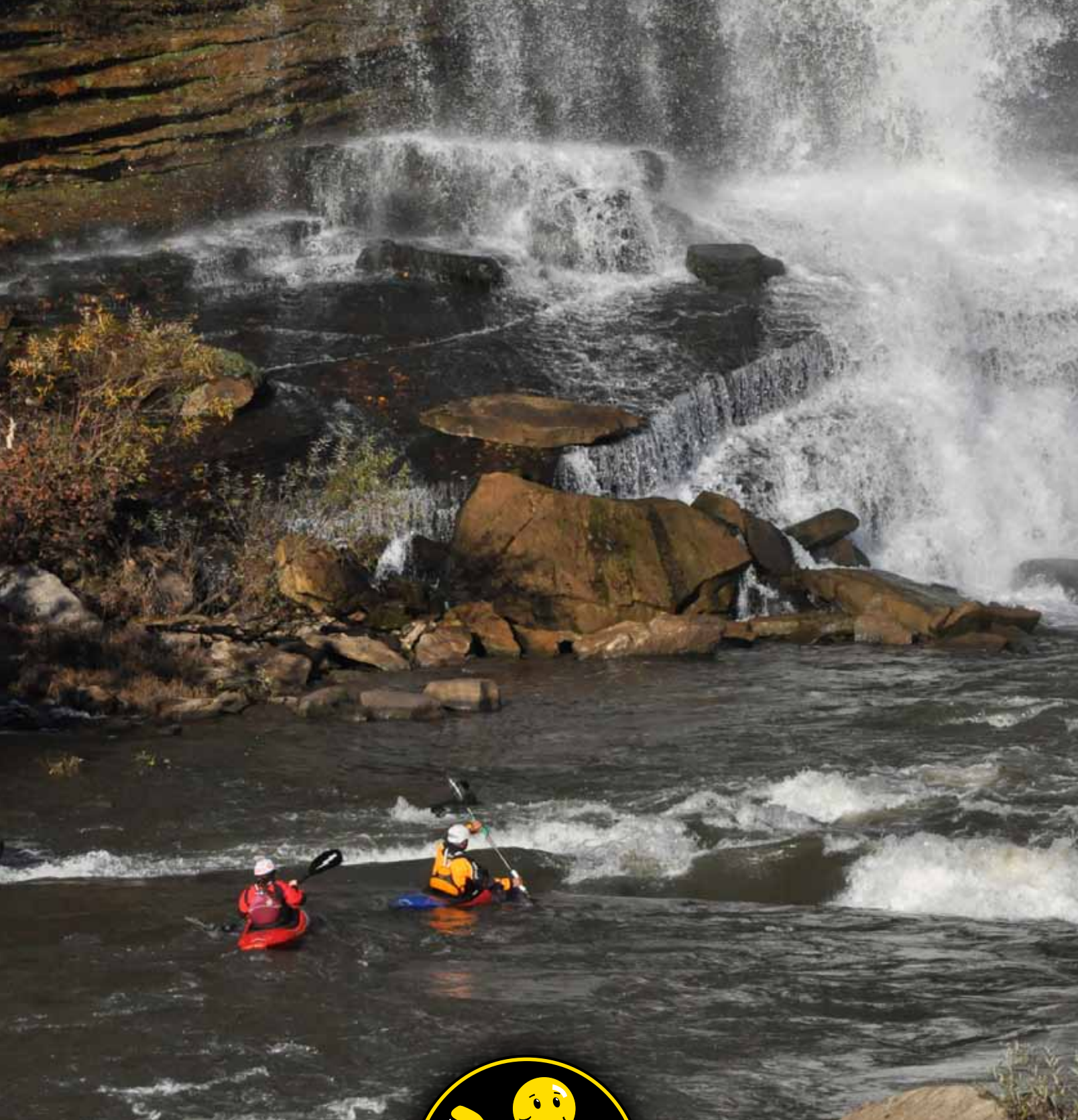
Conservation • Access • Events • Adventure • Safety

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Sep/Oct 2018

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS!

EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND
FUTURE OF THE 1968 W&S RIVERS ACT





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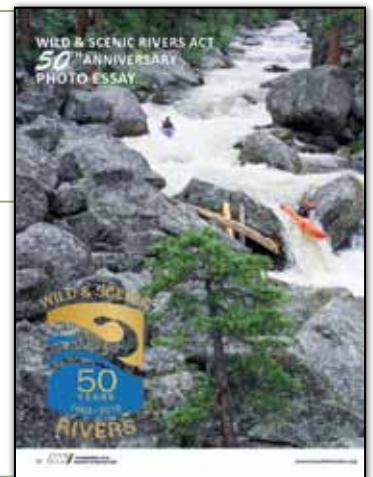
American Whitewater Journal Sep/Oct 2018 – Volume 58 – Issue 5

COLUMNS

- 5 The Journey Ahead by **Mark Singleton**
- 26 Wild River Life By **Susan Elliott**
- 44 First Half 2018 Accident Summary By **Charlie Walbridge**

STEWARDSHIP

- 6 East Rosebud (MT) Designated Wild and Scenic! By **Kevin Colburn**
- 7 Nolichucky Wild and Scenic Update By **Kevin Colburn**
- 8 Mokelumne Welcomed to California Wild and Scenic Rivers System By **Theresa Simsiman**
- 10 Thoughts on River Conservation By **Rob Lesser**
- 12 Wild and Scenic Photo Essay by **Evan Stafford**



FEATURE ARTICLES

WILDERNESS RIVERS

- 20 Reunion and Renewal: an Adventure on The Middle Fork of the Salmon River By **Jack Billings**

WHITEWATER HISTORY

- 30 A Lesson from the Past: The Great Hudson River Run and River Activism Advice from 1968 By **Robert Harrigan**
- 36 Ridley Scott's Lost Whitewater Commercial: The Story of a Beer Commercial Filmed on the Youghiogheny River in 1973 By **Dan Demaree**



Momentum is building for a Wild and Scenic Nolichucky River in North Carolina. American Whitewater is currently engaged in the person-by-person work of building support within local communities. Look for opportunities to help grow this grassroots process in the near future.

Photo by Leland Davis

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our 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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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.

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THE JOURNEY AHEAD

ON OCTOBER 2, 1968, President Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act into law. Today, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the historic passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Our community was among the first to advocate for a system designed to protect pristine and free-flowing rivers in the United States. As part of the original act, eight rivers were designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers: Clearwater (ID), Eleven Point (MO), Feather (CA), Rio Grande (NM), Rogue (OR), St. Croix (WI & MN), Salmon (ID), and Wolf (WI). As of December 2014, the National System protects 12,734 miles of 208 rivers in 40 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; this is less than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers. By comparison, the more than 75,000 large dams across the country have modified at least 600,000 miles, or about 17%, of our rivers.

As paddlers, we know firsthand the mood swing of wild rivers from their most rowdy state to their tranquil moments. During the early history of American Whitewater, our founders shared the magnificence of several of the original eight in the *American Whitewater Journal*. They wrote passionately about the need for a national river protection system and worked with leaders in the national river conservation community to successfully develop and support what would become the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act identifies outstandingly remarkable values that include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, and cultural values. Rivers designated under the Act are preserved in their free-flowing condition and are not dammed or otherwise impeded. A Wild and Scenic designation essentially vetoes licensing new hydropower projects on the river. It also provides very strong protection against oil, gas and mineral

development, and creates a federal reserved water right to protect flow-dependent values.

The 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act marks an incredible opportunity to build positive awareness, support, and activism around the need to grow our one-of-a-kind system of protecting outstanding rivers. In keeping with the theme that the best defense is a good offense, American Whitewater is currently working to designate new rivers for protection under the Act. We are the co-architect of several Wild and Scenic River bills that are moving through Congress or in the works that would protect some of our nation's most spectacular headwaters. In addition, we seek new protections through National Forest and BLM planning efforts.

As I write this, a bill to protect 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek in south-central Montana as part of the Wild and Scenic River System is on the president's desk after passing through both the House and Senate. American Whitewater has actively supported this bill and the many local community members that have advocated for it since day one. We played a high-level role in defeating a proposed dam on the stream, and have since worked to secure its permanent protection. We are thrilled by this bill's passage, and would like to thank the entire Montana delegation for working together to protect this wonderful stream. We now eagerly await the final presidential signature needed to permanently protect

East Rosebud Creek. As we wait, there are other Wild and Scenic Rivers Bills before this session of Congress:

- Wild Olympics – 464 miles (WA)
- Oregon Wildlands – 278 miles (OR)
- Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook – 62 miles (CT)

We would like to see these bills materialize as a significant way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The stakes are high, as these rivers up for consideration are some of the finest whitewater rivers in the country. American Whitewater will be there every step of the way, from attending meetings to filing comments, and we ask you to join us in support of these wild places.



PS - On August 2nd the President's signature marked the exciting finale of nearly a decade of efforts to protect Montana's East Rosebud Creek from hydropower development and other impacts. Twenty miles of this beautiful stream are now designated as a Wild and Scenic River as it flows from the rugged Beartooth Mountains between Big Timber and Red Lodge, Montana. East Rosebud is treasured by local residents, paddlers, anglers, hikers, and other visitors.

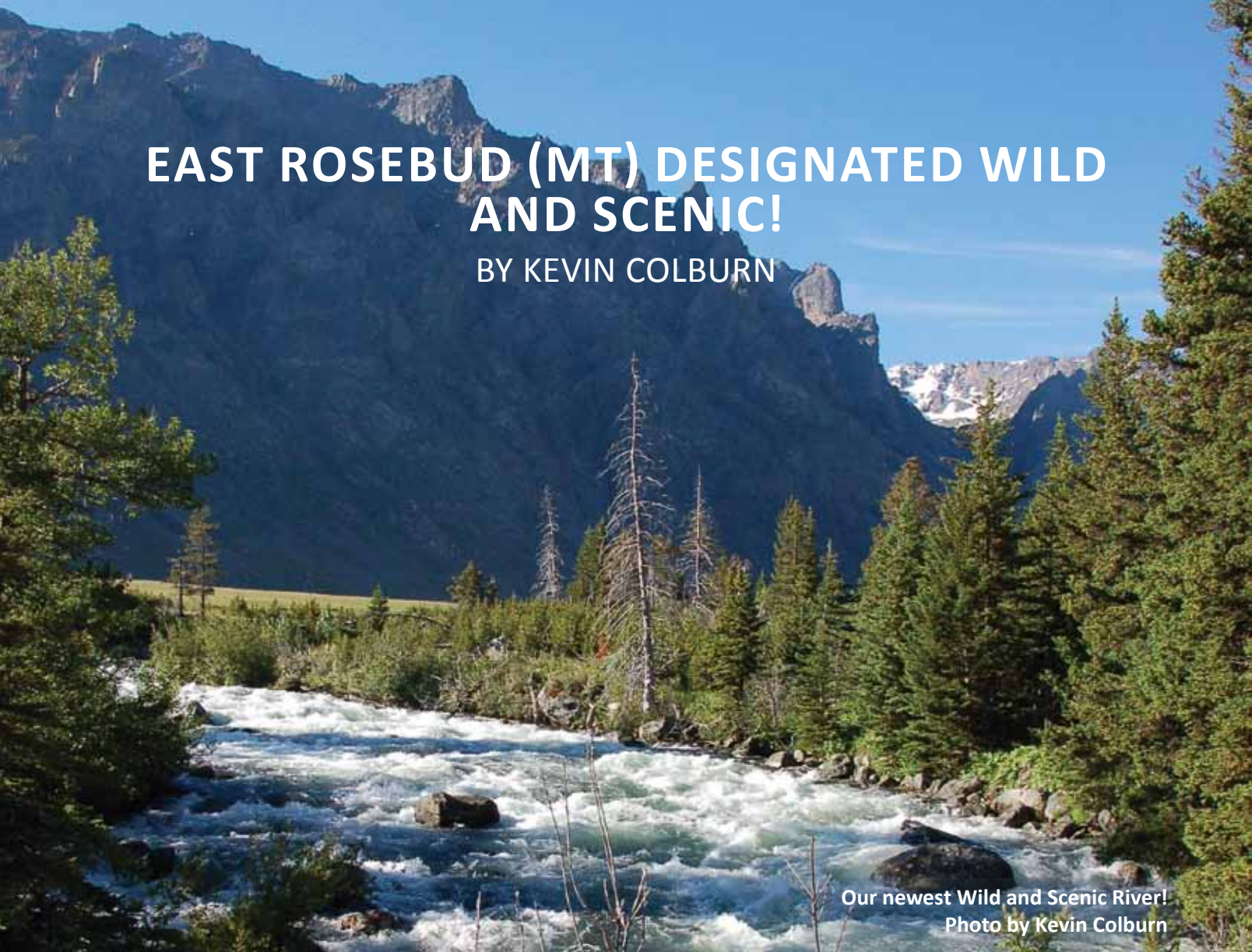
Breaking News: East Rosebud ((MT) has been designated Wild and Scenic!

Photo by Kevin Colburn



EAST ROSEBUD (MT) DESIGNATED WILD AND SCENIC!

BY KEVIN COLBURN



Our newest Wild and Scenic River!
Photo by Kevin Colburn

ON AUGUST 3RD, 2018, the President's signature marked the exciting finale of nearly a decade of efforts to protect Montana's East Rosebud Creek from hydropower development and other human impacts. Twenty miles of this beautiful stream were designated as a Wild and Scenic River as it flows from the rugged Beartooth Mountains between Big Timber and Red Lodge, Montana. East Rosebud is a Class IV/V creek run set in a dramatic valley and is well loved by members of the Beartooth Paddlers Society, the local paddling club with a long history of river advocacy.

The designation comes on the 50th anniversary year of the beloved Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and marks the first such designation in Montana since 1976. The legislation benefited from active and

skilled bi-partisan support from the entire Montana delegation over the past several years. We can't thank Senators Tester and Daines, and Congressman Gianforte enough for their support for protecting East Rosebud Creek!

American Whitewater joined partners and local citizens to fight a proposed dam on East Rosebud Creek in 2009, as well as dams on other nearby rivers. This effort evolved into a movement to permanently protect East Rosebud and other Montana streams with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which prevents hydropower dams in perpetuity. Local citizens organized as Friends of East Rosebud to champion the local cause, and worked tirelessly to secure designation. They did so in concert with the statewide coalition Montanans for Healthy Rivers (MHR). As a steering committee member

of MHR, American Whitewater has actively worked to advocate for protection of East Rosebud Creek since 2010.

In addition to the Montana Congressional delegation, we would like to voice our sincere thanks and congratulations to the Friends of East Rosebud, American Rivers, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Pacific Rivers Council, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Beartooth Paddlers, and the many other groups and individuals we've worked closely with on protecting East Rosebud Creek. We'd also like to recognize all the individuals who wrote letters and made calls to their political representatives, and send a special thank you to Patagonia, KEEN Footwear, REI, and the Cinnabar Foundation for supporting American Whitewater's role in designating the United States' newest Wild and Scenic River!

STEWARDSHIP

NOLICHUCKY UPDATE

BY KEVIN COLBURN

EFFORTS TO DESIGNATE the Nolichucky and other potential Wild and Scenic Rivers got a big boost this summer when Patagonia featured American Whitewater's Wild and Scenic activism on their popular blog, the *Cleanest Line*. The blog got our message of river protection out to a vast audience and encouraged them to contact their political representatives about this important issue. American Whitewater is now focused on the person-by-person work of building support within local communities around the Nolichucky. This fall we are convening outdoor related businesses on a support letter, working to formalize endorsements throughout the region, and testing for support of additional streams.



The Nolichucky is worthy of Wild and Scenic designation.

Photo courtesy of Liquid Logic

What to get for the paddler who has everything?

Give them the gift of rivers with an American Whitewater membership!



Colorado River, Grand Canyon. | Photo: Evan Stafford

CALIFORNIA WELCOMES THE MOKELUMNE RIVER TO THE STATE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

BY THERESA SIMSIMAN



Downriver racer Albert Romvari participating in the Moke Races put on by American Whitewater Affiliate Club Loma Prieta Paddlers. Photo by Gary Johnson

DECADES OF HOME grown advocacy from conservation groups, including heavy lifting done by our colleagues at Foothill Conservancy and Friends of the River, have finally resulted in the permanent protection of thirty-seven miles of the North Fork and main stem of the Mokelumne River, from Salt Springs Dam to the upper extent of Pardee Reservoir. On June 27, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that added this section of the Mokelumne River to the California State Wild and Scenic System. Like the Federal Act upon which it was modeled, the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act mandates, “certain rivers which possess extraordinary scenic, recreational, fishery, or wildlife values shall be preserved in their free-flowing state, together with their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the state.”

The bill containing the Mokelumne Wild and Scenic designation was spurred by a California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) study that concluded the Mokelumne River was suitable for State Wild and Scenic designation. Following the release of the study a unique spirit of cooperation

propelled Foothill Conservancy and Friends of the River, along with local water agencies and the East Bay Municipal Utility District to come together on long debated special bill language. The resulting language ensured state designation would not affect existing water rights, facilities and that agencies can pursue future water rights for projects that would do no harm to the free-flowing nature or extraordinary values of the Mokelumne river. One of the key existing water right and facilities that will remain intact is the FERC-licensed Mokelumne Hydropower Project operated by Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Since 2001 American Whitewater and Foothill Conservancy have participated in the Ecological Resource Committee for the project and continues to implement improved instream flows, recreational flows and river access.

At a recent Wild and Scenic celebration, Foothill Conservancy acknowledged the long-standing support of American Whitewater both in the trenches on the Mokelumne Hydroelectric Project and in the efforts to permanently protect the watershed. Throughout the long campaign for State Wild and Scenic designation American Whitewater provided key

information on whitewater opportunities found throughout the Mokelumne watershed that were incorporated into the pivotal CNRA study. The study specifically identified whitewater boating as an extraordinary recreational value on 4 of 5 of the Mokelumne river segments found suitable for State Wild and Scenic designation. The study highlighted that the unique scenic values combined with the guaranteed recreational flows provided by PG&E’s hydropower project result in outstanding recreational resources on the Class V Devil’s Nose Run, the Class IV Tiger Creek Run, the Class III Ponderosa Run, and the Class II Electra Run. Ultimately, Wild and Scenic designation is a windfall for all river lovers, permanently protecting the Mokelumne watershed from destructive new dams, dam raises, and diversions.

“I can’t begin to tell you how happy we are,” said Katherine Evatt, board president of the Jackson-based Foothill Conservancy. “It’s a tremendous day for our community. People really love the Mokelumne. We have worked for decades to ensure that this beautiful river is protected for generations to come, and finally, the upper Mokelumne is a California Wild and Scenic River.”



SEPTEMBER
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STEWARDSHIP

THOUGHTS ON RIVER CONSERVATION

BY ROB LESSER



Rob Lesser running Disneyland on the North Fork Payette, ID in 1985.
By Monte Morevec

THESE THOUGHTS ARE taken from a talk Rob gave at the North Fork Championships River Symposium, a stewardship-minded event put on by Idaho Rivers United and American Whitewater aimed at bringing river runners together to take action, drink beer, and raise their voices for river conservation.

Nineteen sixty-eight is a year I remember well, but mostly for the wrong reasons. I was a 22-year-old graduate student in Zoology at the University of Montana in Missoula dodging the draft by staying in school. Vietnam loomed over everything. Then came the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy. Chicago dissolved into chaos at the Democratic National Convention. LBJ dropped from consideration for another term. Racial protests occurred throughout America and at the Mexico City Olympics. It was a time of unrest in America, eerily like today's political scene in many ways.

But there were some positives as well. Apollo 8 would orbit the moon and the next year Apollo 11 would land there. The seminal photo of "Earthrise" featured on the Whole Earth catalog cover gave us

pause for thought about our finite planet. A major environmental movement was on the horizon.

Also later in 1968 came four pieces of forward-thinking environmental legislation, all signed by President Johnson on October 2. Redwoods National Park was created, the National Trails System Act became law, North Cascades National Park was created and finally, and most importantly to river enthusiasts, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act became law.

Immediately protected were eight nationwide river segments, with two being wholly here in Idaho: The Middle Fork of the Clearwater, which included the Lochsa and Selway, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon from its origin to the confluence with the Main Salmon. Also recommended for study in the bill were the Bruneau, Moyie, Priest, St. Joe, and Main Salmon, many of which have come under the law's protection in subsequent years.

My own commitment to rivers started in 1968 as well. Just down the hall from me in the Health Science Building in Missoula was a key advocate for the creation of the Wild

and Scenic Rivers bill, Dr. John Craighead. He ran the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Unit and on their walls were pictures of people kayaking the Middle Fork and rafting the Flathead. That year I borrowed a two-person Metzler Inca raft from the Wildlife Unit to race in the annual Clark Fork River race. The next year I borrowed it again to support my climbing partner as he christened his new Missoula-built kayak on the Roundup Bar section of the Blackfoot River. But as we prepared to launch on the Clearwater River before it joins the Blackfoot, Rob Erickson put me in his pristine fiberglass boat and pushed me off. An instant love affair with the kayak and free flowing rivers occurred. Fifteen days later, I had my own kayak. Nine years later, I was battling for the preservation of the North and South Forks of the Payette. As the Idaho Whitewater Association we were successful in stopping those dam projects and in 1988 Friends of the Payette, and, later, Idaho Rivers United, carried the torch of river protection in Idaho much farther.

There are approximately 3.6 million miles of rivers in the United States. Of these at least 600,000 miles (17%) are impounded behind more than 75,000 dams. Only 12,734 miles

are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (0.35%).

Fifty years have come and gone since the act was passed. Those of us who have lived those years know one thing for certain. World population has grown exponentially. When I was born, 2.4 billion humans inhabited the planet. Now the estimate is 7.6 billion. The wildness of our natural world is declining. We need to do everything we can to protect what remains. I urge all river advocates to join the fight to add more special river miles to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

My thanks to Sam Goff for pushing me to do this and to think about the great significance and importance of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Top: Put-in at Roundup Bar on the Blackfoot River, MT, with (L to R) Pywak the dog, Walt Smith, Rob Erickson, Rob Lesser, Bill Sparks. Pictured in front of Erickson is the kayak that started it all. My first boat, the yellow Duffek, was built by Lynn McAdams (the grandfather of present day paddling ace Darby McAdams) of Missoula 15 days later. Nice to see kayaking still runs deep in their family!

Photo by Rob Lesser

Middle: Don Banducci running Disneyland on the NF Payette in 1979. This being one of the very first top-to-bottom descents of the North Fork, Don had actually written out a "last will and testament" at the put-in. When he got to the take-out, he called his girlfriend Maggie Kerwin to let her know the "will" would not be necessary, and that's when he learned they had bought Yakima Industries, and thus began its development into the major car top carrier company it is today.

Photo by Rob Lesser

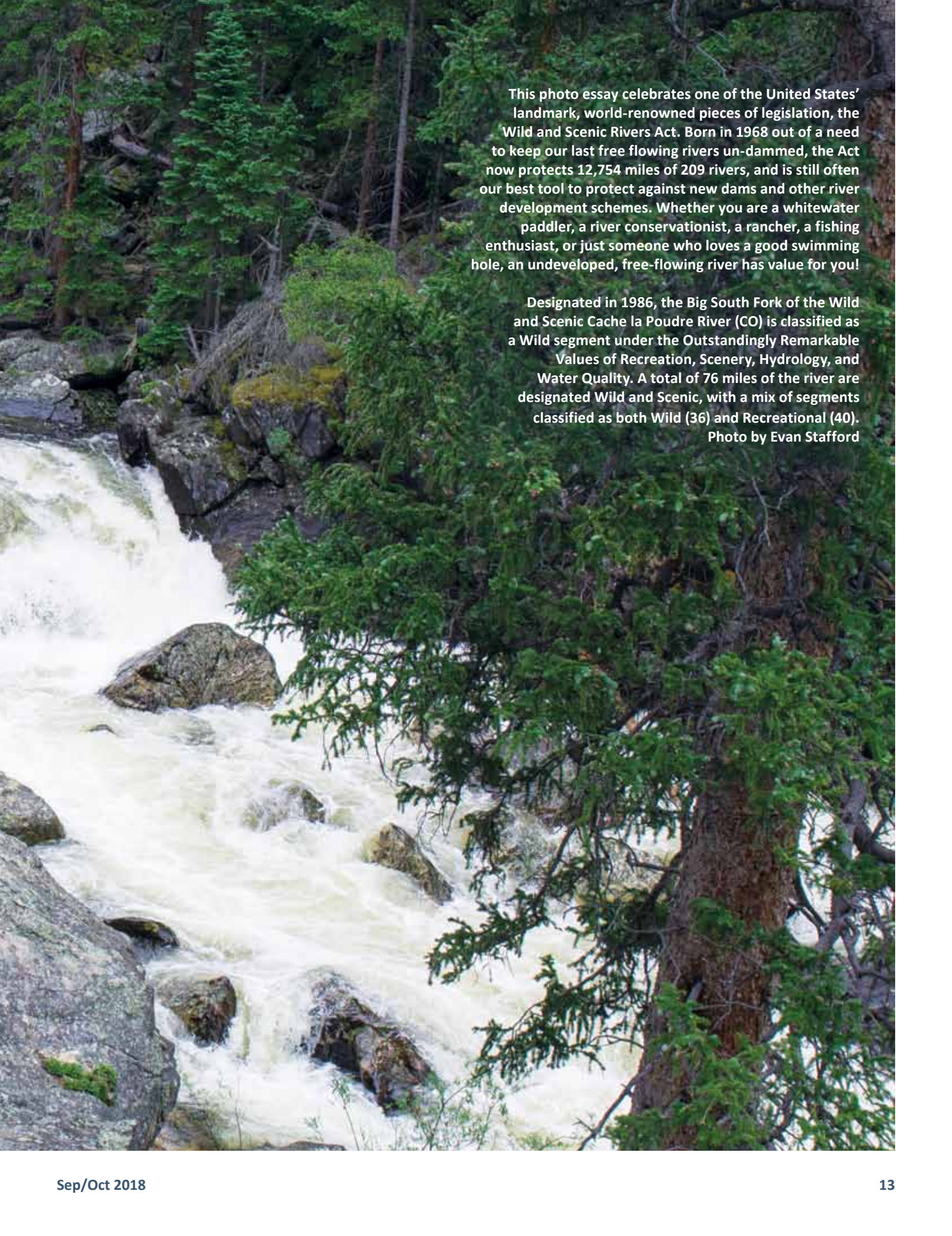
Bottom: Nick Troutman and Rafa Ortiz in Juicer, North Fork Payette, after the 2018 North Fork Championship. This river is a prime attraction for the best kayakers in the world and should be part of the National Wild and Scenic River System as a Recreational section.

Photo by Rob Lesser



WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT
50TH ANNIVERSARY
PHOTO ESSAY





This photo essay celebrates one of the United States' landmark, world-renowned pieces of legislation, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Born in 1968 out of a need to keep our last free flowing rivers un-dammed, the Act now protects 12,754 miles of 209 rivers, and is still often our best tool to protect against new dams and other river development schemes. Whether you are a whitewater paddler, a river conservationist, a rancher, a fishing enthusiast, or just someone who loves a good swimming hole, an undeveloped, free-flowing river has value for you!

Designated in 1986, the Big South Fork of the Wild and Scenic Cache la Poudre River (CO) is classified as a Wild segment under the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of Recreation, Scenery, Hydrology, and Water Quality. A total of 76 miles of the river are designated Wild and Scenic, with a mix of segments classified as both Wild (36) and Recreational (40).

Photo by Evan Stafford



American Whitewater co-founder, Oscar "Oz" Hawksley, was at the forefront of early exploration of the Clearwater, Main Salmon, and Middle Fork Salmon Rivers (ID), Flathead (MT), and Yampa and Green Rivers (CO, UT, WY), along with many rivers in the Ozarks. Oz was a part of a new generation of wilderness explorers, many of whom had served in World War II, who took to the water with army surplus rafts. These explorations and conservation efforts, such as Oz's first modern descent of the Selway River (ID), were critical to the design of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and many of the rivers they explored such as the Selway, the Salmon, and the Flathead were among the first rivers designated when the Act became law on October 2, 1968.

Photos courtesy of the Hawksley Family





Harriet Bauer, paddling the Sauk River (WA). In 1964, American Whitewater co-founder Wolf Bauer wrote an essay on the "Concept of River Wilderness," featuring these and other images of the Sauk River. In 1978, the river was designated Wild and Scenic.

Photos by Wolf Bauer





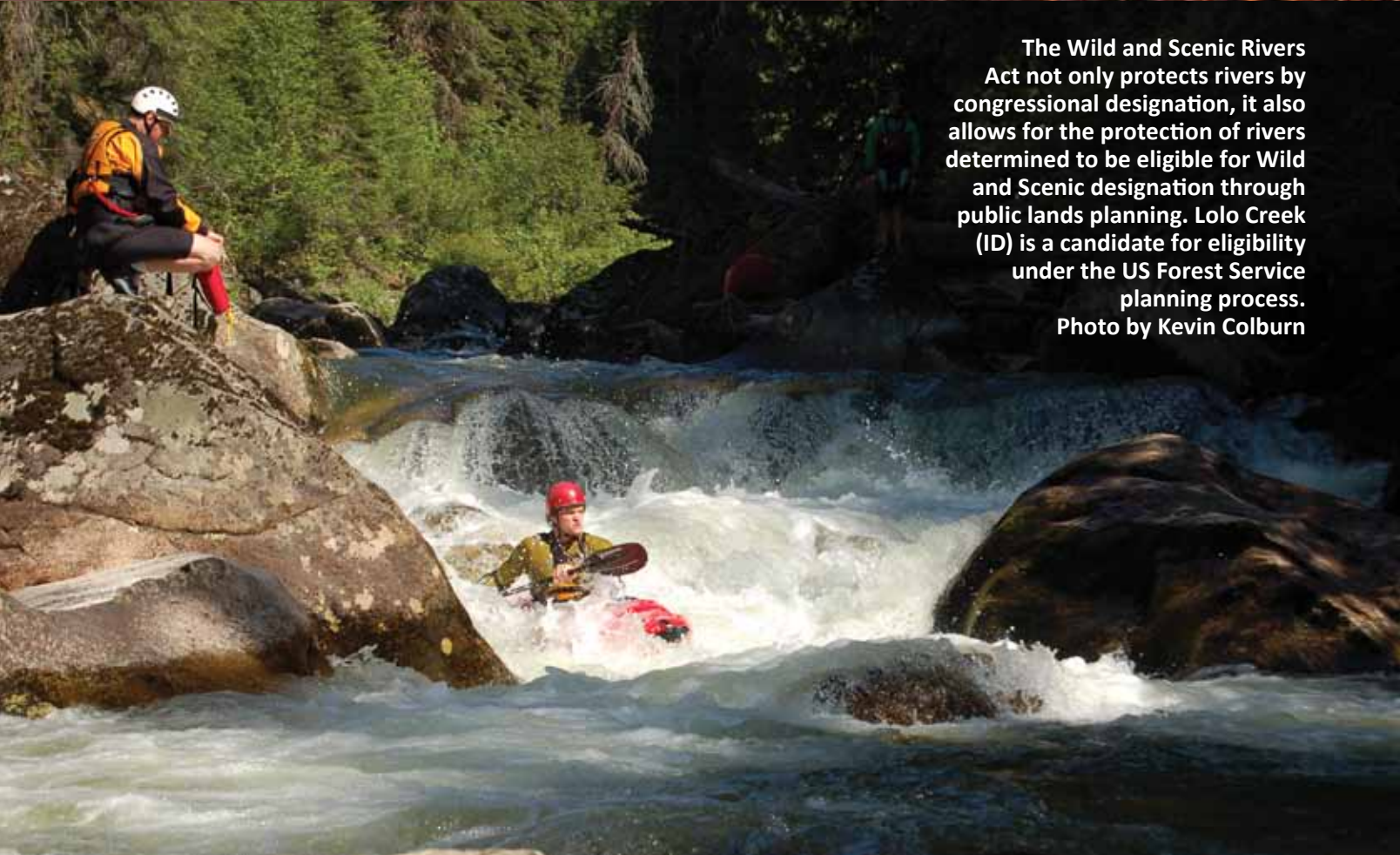
Opposite: The Chetco River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1988 and is a part of the Kalmiopsis Region, a wild area in Southern Oregon and Northern California known for its pristine rivers. The Kalmiopsis includes two other Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Illinois and the North Fork Smith, along with five other US Forest Service Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers that meet the criteria for future designation. Despite these protections and the exceptional water quality, fisheries, and recreation opportunities, this region still faces serious threats from mining.

Photos by Mike Curiak

The Clarks Fork Box is one of the most dramatic river canyons in the United States and was saved from efforts to dam it by some incredibly dedicated river warriors around the same time of its first descent by paddlers in the early 1980s. Armed with incredible photos of paddling inside the Box, Lamar Empey spent years convincing what seemed like the entire state of Wyoming, including chambers of commerce, county commissioners, the Governor and multiple newspapers, to endorse the river's nomination, culminating in victory, when the plans to dam it were finally put to rest with the river's designation as a Wild and Scenic River in 1991.

Photo by Evan Stafford





The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act not only protects rivers by congressional designation, it also allows for the protection of rivers determined to be eligible for Wild and Scenic designation through public lands planning. Lolo Creek (ID) is a candidate for eligibility under the US Forest Service planning process.
Photo by Kevin Colburn



Opposite above: The Gila River (NM) and a few key tributaries are gaining momentum for Wild and Scenic designation through local efforts backed by American Whitewater and our national partners, while at the same time being threatened by a poorly defined dam and diversion proposal that is moving through the National Environmental Policy Act process.

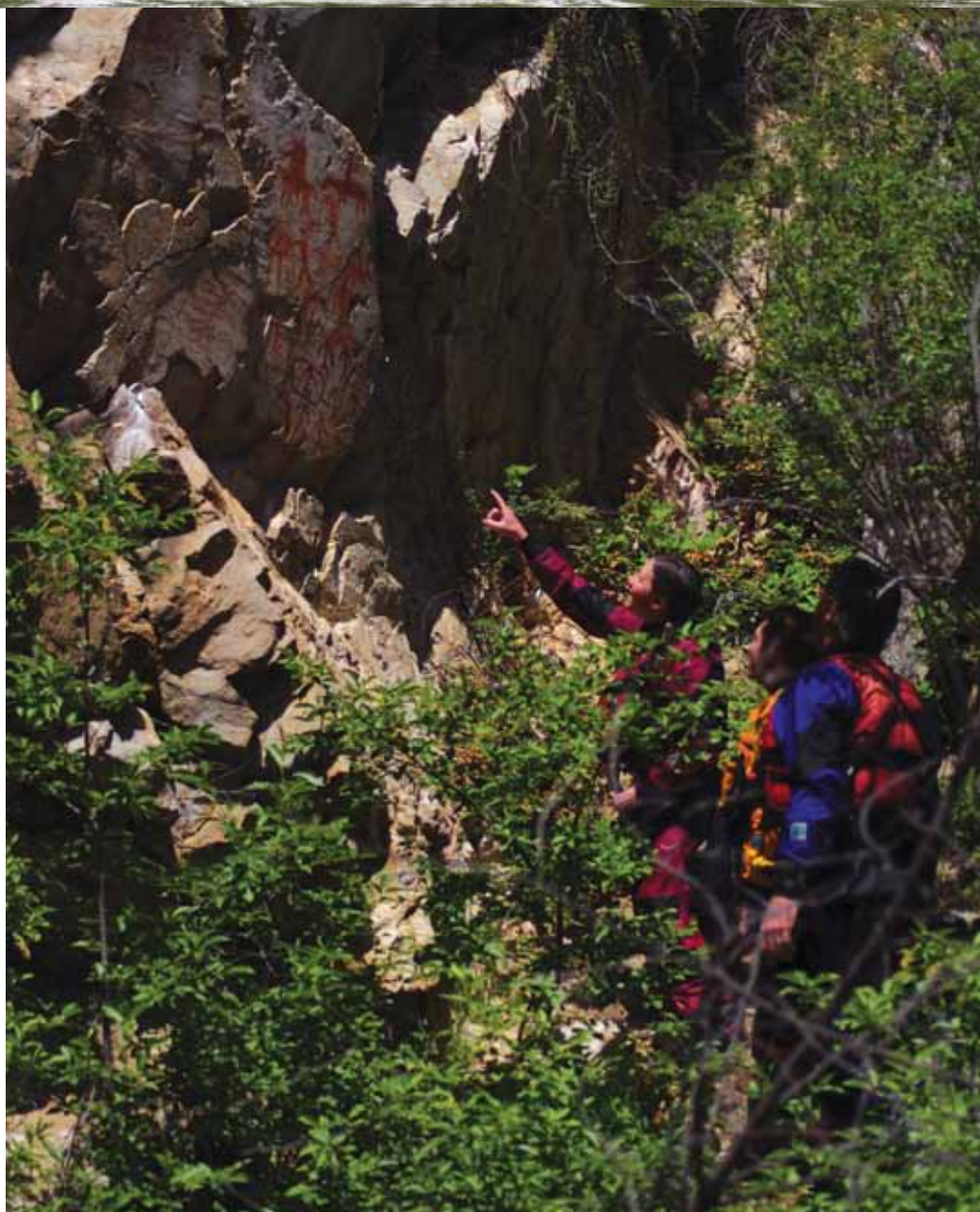
Photo by Evan Stafford

Top: In 1968 the Chattooga River, along with 19 other rivers, was designated as a "study river" by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Chattooga drains a large watershed from three states: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In 1971 the movie Deliverance featured the Chattooga's whitewater, and interest from river runners grew. Efforts over the next several years to share the river with influential members of the community, including then-Governor of Georgia Jimmy Carter, culminated in the river's designation in 1974.

Photo by Kevin Colburn

Bottom: Wild and Scenic designations and eligibility determinations hinge on rivers having one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Value. These can include things such as water quality, scenic beauty, rich archeological sites, and unique geology. Here, paddlers enjoy pictographs along the Salmon River (ID).

Photo by Evan Stafford





REUNION AND RENEWAL: AN ADVENTURE ON THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER

BY JACK BILLINGS

Rolling hills below Indian Creek
Photo by Jack Billings

The 50th Anniversary of The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

THE WILD AND Scenic Rivers act was adopted by the United States Congress in 1968, during an intensely contentious era of violent anti-war demonstrations and political assassinations. Amidst this great turmoil, Sen. Frank Church of Idaho employed his political acumen and common sense to lead the country to one of its greatest preservation accomplishments. Among the first eight rivers granted this unique protection was the 104-mile run of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Fittingly, the river is now surrounded by the nearly 2.5-million-acre Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness. The Middle Fork is one of the last free-flowing tributaries of the Salmon River.

The River and its Canyon

Whitewater rafting is so popular in the United States that the most challenging trips are governed by lottery. After the

Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the Middle Fork is arguably the most highly treasured jewel, and boaters apply year after year for a permit, hoping for good fortune. Depending on snowpack and spring runoff in the mountains of central Idaho, the runnable season is usually from early June until the end of August. In those three months 3,750 private boaters and at least 7,000 commercial guests descend the river; at least 10 times that number would love to go. So, given the invitation, I seized the rare opportunity to join others for the 50th anniversary of the Middle Fork's designation as a Wild and Scenic waterway. I relished the opportunity to experience again the stunning, pristine mountain beauty and the intense adrenaline rush of cascading water.

Part of what compels rafters to run the Middle Fork is the technical challenge of navigating a small river in a steep, narrow canyon. The Middle Fork's gradient averages 27 feet per mile over its entire length. The 25-mile upper stretch between

the launch at Boundary Creek and the Indian Creek guard station drops at a rate of nearly 40 feet per mile, giving boatmen and paddlers ample challenge.

Many Middle Fork rapids are lengthy, sometimes 150 to 200 yards long, or more. Every time you enter a rapid, it launches a noisy boil and crash of water, pitching over and around rock gardens, drowning out everything else around you. Many of the hazards require pulling off one rock to set up for the next, demanding constant vigilance. The greatest danger may not be the entrance among large rocks or a curling pillow of water off an outside wall, but rather something else lurking 50 or even 100 yards downstream. Success at the lower end of the rapid typically depends on the set up at the top.

The river flows through three distinct ecological regions. From the Boundary Creek launch in high alpine forest at 6,000 feet, the first 25 miles are dominated by innumerable rocks and boulders, many

WILDERNESS RIVERS

rapids, and swift, rock-choked channels. Thick forests of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir line the banks. Below Indian Creek at mile 25, the river corridor widens, and giant Ponderosa pine dominate the riparian landscape. Rolling, grassy hills stretch back from the river. Downstream from the Flying B Ranch, at mile 67, the river plunges into a deep Lower Gorge with narrow walls and constricted vistas. This final stretch is known as the "Impassable Canyon," the third deepest in North America.

Visitors to the Middle Fork are inevitably struck by forest fire destruction in many parts of the canyon. Due to its wilderness designation there is no road access and no mechanical equipment is allowed. Consequently, a forest fire within the wilderness rages on until it burns out. In many places, the river itself has been a last stand against a conflagration. In other areas, fire has jumped the river and burned trees on both sides. The burned-out trunks are a stark reminder of fire's compelling force. Yet, everywhere renewal and regeneration appear. Among the charred trees verdant undergrowth reclaims the seared landscape. Within the stands of dead trees are the few that have survived and will eventually reseed the canyon.



Giant ponderosa pine at Wilson Creek camp
Photo by Andy Matthews

Getting on the Water

The Boundary Creek launch site is always chaotic, littered with vehicles, often with trailers, rafts in various stages of inflation, frames, oars, and piles of personal gear. Each day those who already have their permit jockey for position to finish assembly and shove off downstream. Those who arrive for the next day's departures are anxious to rig up for a spot in the crowded

eddy below. The afternoon before our launch, we met with the Forest Service and representatives of other groups to assign campsites.

I have rowed multi-day whitewater trips for more than 40 years. Decades of experience have not diminished the catch in the throat, the excitement and apprehension of shoving off to begin another river adventure. I had run the Middle Fork three times before and generally knew what to expect, yet being there at Boundary Creek was like experiencing it for the first time all over again.

Within the first 150 yards of our launch, I knew two things: (1) my boat was too big, and (2) I was seriously out of practice. The 16-foot self-bailing raft I had purchased four years earlier to run the Colorado River proved to be a management challenge. I was clumsy on the oars all the way to camp. At Velvet Falls (mile five) I was unable to make the pull to the left for the preferred run and hit the center of the falls dead on. Fortunately, momentum and the boat's size

Typical chaos at the boat launch
Photo by Scott Hazlitt





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WILDERNESS RIVERS



Hitting the bottom of Tappen Falls backwards

Photo by Andy Matthews

worked to our advantage, and we plowed through. This was not the only time bulk came to rescue my lack of finesse.

Whitewater

During our second day on the river, peak excitement was Pistol Creek rapid. Here, the river pinches down into a narrow, steep slot that features a left turn off one wall and then right off another. With dozens of challenging rapids on the Middle Fork, scouting all is impractical. The boater must “read and run,” deciding on the fly where to go. Pistol Creek, though, is worth the look. We pulled in for a half-mile trek downstream to scout from rocks 20 feet above. After some debate and commiseration, we chose the route.

The last few hundred yards to the beginning of the rapid were swift, smooth, and a vivid dark green. As we picked up speed, the river in front of us dropped out of sight. The right-hand channel we had chosen for entrance bent in a downward hurtle. My attention was laser-focused on the end of a cobble bar on immediate left, the marker for my move to the left. We were engulfed

The hot spring shower at Sunflower Flat

Photo by Andy Matthews

by the boil, surge, and hiss of whitewater on all sides. The tang of aerated water hung like mist in the air. As I pulled back to face downstream again, a huge, curling pillow of water forming off the right-hand wall directly in front was the greatest point of danger. With our bow firmly planted on the foaming, driving fountain, we slid to our left and caromed directly toward the steep wall on the opposite bank. With a few strokes backward, we emerged unscathed. The whole rapid, from the initial drop to the eddy below, took only about 15 seconds.

Our fourth day on the river brought us to the Tappen complex of rapids that extends continuously for a mile and a half. About midway through the whitewater is Tappen Falls, the greatest challenge. A huge, partially submerged boulder with a substantial pour-over dominates the approach. Below the big rock is a plunging hole with a great curling wave breaking back upstream. The hazard creates a surging, boiling whirlpool that can hold a boat indefinitely. I entered where I wanted, and things look good.

Right away, I was thrown to the left, nearly into the maw of the churning eddy. I was able to pull downstream out of that danger but plowed into the rest of the rapid backwards. Looking back, I immediately realized that trying to pivot to face again downstream risked hitting another large hole sideways. So, I dug in and pulled as hard as I could, and the momentum carried us through. Again, the weight of the boat made up for my lack of style.

Our final day on the river featured some of the most difficult rapids, including Vinyl, Rubber, and Hancock. Rubber, the largest at most flows, has several huge waves; the largest is a lateral coming in from the left bank. Once again, the big boat plowed through like a truck mowing down traffic cones. Despite the intense whitewater



WILDERNESS RIVERS

challenge, we navigated the river without major incident: no flips, swimmers, or rescues.

Camp Life

Owing to the intense competition for permits, some private boaters may be a cohesive group that collectively applies for a permit every year. Others, like ours, draw from many locations and are a virtual Venn diagram of acquaintanceship, connections, and happenstance.

Our group of 14, from Colorado, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming, was veteran, both in age and experience. Seven of us were mid-fifties and four, including me, were 70 and older. We launched four self-bailing rafts, two catarafts, two hard shell kayaks, and one inflatable kayak.

The rafts and the larger cataraft carried our food, group gear, personal duffel, and portable toilets. Each craft had a metal rowing frame, with a 100-quart cooler as the rowing seat, a dry box in front of the rower, and a passenger seat. (Oar locks for nine- or 10-foot oars are mounted a little behind center to maintain the best possible control.)

Because of the Middle Fork's wilderness designation, all garbage and human solid waste now must be carried out. With no ready access to the river from outside the canyon, raft or other gear repair, or medical issues (short of a life-threatening emergency), must be resolved on the water.

Every afternoon, we set up the kitchen, utilizing three tables and a four-burner propane stove. A ring of folding chairs established the group conversation and

eating area. Tents were pitched close by. The toilet was placed at an appropriate distance and two hand sanitation stations were set up. Laughter was nonstop as we told tales, cracked bad jokes, listened to banjo, and generally enjoyed one another's company.

A simple joy in multi-day river rafting is fixing a meal for a group of boaters. Finicky appetites give way to raw hunger and food is always more delicious than at home. The evening meals featured hors d'oeuvres, entrée, side dishes, and dessert. Plastic bladders of boxed wine were generally available. Though we were sad to reach the end of our journey and leave the river, our souls and our bodies were well-nourished.

Reunion and renewal

Fifty years after the historic adoption of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the legacy

Otter Bar, our final camp.
Photo by Andy Matthews





Top: A rare treat: ice cream bars in the wilderness

Middle: Dangerous bocce ball teams commandeered the camp.

Bottom: The final free-fall drop from the ramp

Photos by Scott Hazlitt

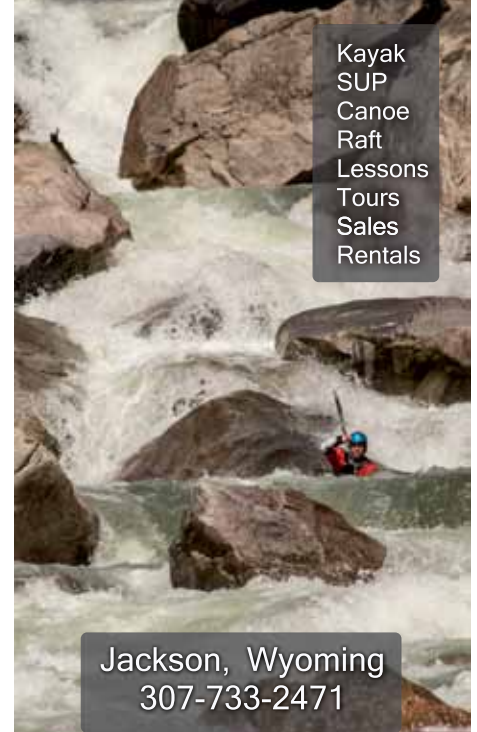
of Frank Church still lives. The genius of preservation is its constant renewal. Cherished and not exploited, this absolute jewel rolls on.

Along with my trip mates, I am grateful for the chance to replenish my strength and spirit of adventure in this stunning mountain ecosystem. Owing to Frank Church's vision, thoughtful management by the Forest Service, and the cooperation of thousands of boaters, the splendor and uniqueness of this river still awaits us all.



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Ben Dann @ The Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS: AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES

BY SUSAN ELLIOTT

Deep in Iron Point Canyon, Montgomery Rapid provides a fun challenge on the Owyhee River (OR).
Photo by Adam Elliott

THE ONLY DIFFICULT part of going on a giant paddling road trip is deciding where to go. The classics on our list, at least, seem never ending. Then there are the lesser-known slivers of paradise that you've heard about. Or the most iconic wilderness trips, or urban floats. But have you ever taken the time to write out a list?

We finally did and we chose to put a conservation spin on our choices. They would all be Wild and Scenic, and there would be 50 of them. We are even publishing a guidebook this year called *Paddle America: Discover and Explore Our 50 Greatest Wild and Scenic Rivers*. Something exciting happened when we set this goal and wrapped a theme around it. We could connect each river to the next, no matter how drastically different their characters, by the simple idea that we

hold the protection of these rivers to the highest standard.

Your turn. No better time, right? Go ahead and do it right now; pick 50 new rivers to paddle. Maybe in the next year, maybe in the next decade, maybe just before you physically can't pick up a paddle anymore. Have you done it? Ok, why those 50? What makes those rivers special?

Not sure which rivers to pick? I suggest finding a theme for your guide. Pick rivers that matter, rivers that are threatened, rivers that have been protected. Make your visit about more than just the whitewater, because rivers tell amazing stories if you take the time to learn them. Now all you have to do is load your boat and begin the journey!

Our 50 Rivers List

River #	River Name	State
1	Lower Deschutes River	Oregon
2	Clackamas	Oregon
3	White Salmon	Oregon
4	Main Smith River	California
5	Middle Fork Feather	California

Opposite: When a planned day of kayaking on Fossil Creek (AZ) turned into a monsoon day and their paddling partners had to travel back home, Susan and Adam waited out the storm to be able to play on the creek the next day with snorkel gear and an inner tube.

Photo by Adam Elliott

WILD RIVER LIFE

River #	River Name	State
6	Illinois River	Oregon
7	Quartsville Creek	Oregon
8	North Umpqua	Oregon
9	Verde River	Arizona
10	Fossil Creek	Arizona
11	Sol Duc (proposed: Wild Olympics)	Washington
12	Queets River (proposed: Wild Olympics)	Washington
13	Trinity River	California
14	North Fork of the Smith River	California
15	Sandy	Oregon
16	Crooked	Oregon
17	Jarbidge	Idaho
18	Bruneau	Idaho
19	Owyhee	Oregon
20	Chetco River	Oregon
21	Elk River	Oregon
22	American River	California



Adam rides the tongue through Souse Hole on the Rio Grande's Racecourse section, a Recreational designated stretch and one of the first eight rivers to enter the Wild and Scenic system in 1968.

Photo by Susan Elliott

River #	River Name	State
23	Merced River	California
24	Tuolumne River	California
25	Virgin River	Utah

River #	River Name	State
26	Cache la Poudre River	Colorado
27	Rio Grande	New Mexico
28	Granite Creek	Wyoming
29	Hoback River	Wyoming
30	Middle Fork Flathead River	Montana
31	Beartrap Canyon of the Madison (proposed)	Montana
32	North Fork Blackfoot (proposed)	Montana
33	Main Salmon	Idaho
34	Middle Fork Salmon River	Idaho
35	Niobrara River	Nebraska
36	Wolf River	Wisconsin
37	St Croix River	Minnesota/ Wisconsin
38	Metolius River	Oregon



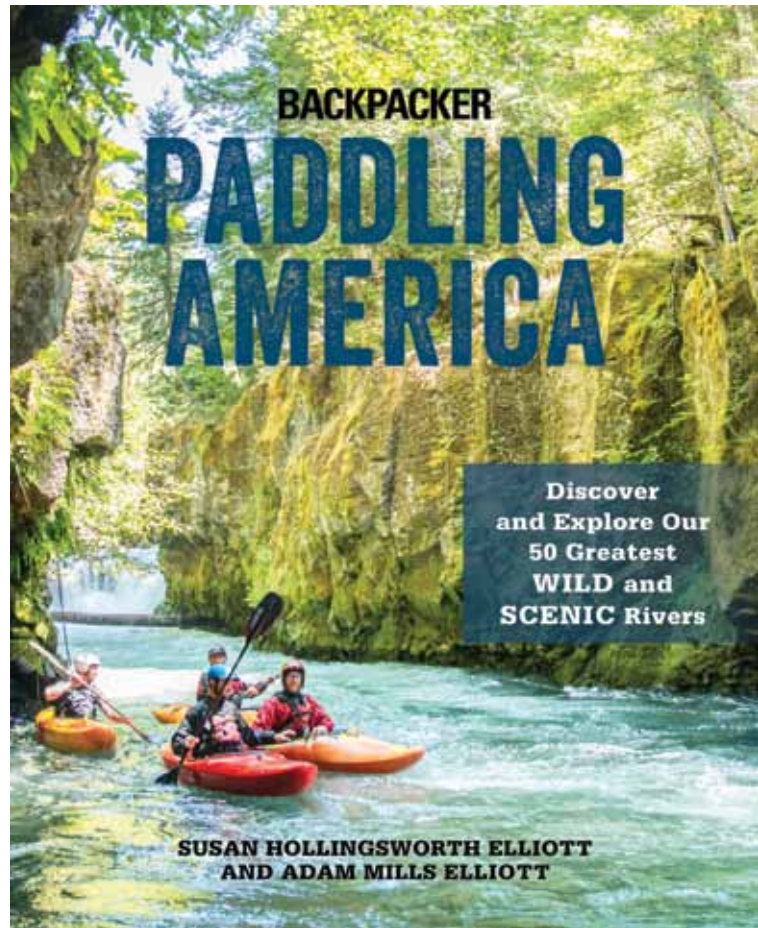
WILD RIVER LIFE

River #	River Name	State
39	Skagit River	Washington
40	McKenzie River	Oregon
41	Wilson River	North Carolina
42	Big Laurel Creek (proposed)	North Carolina
43	Nolichucky River (proposed)	North Carolina
44	Lochsa River	Idaho
45	Selway River	Idaho
46	Grande Ronde	Oregon
47	Middle Fork Snoqualmie River?	Washington
48	Chattooga River?	Georgia/ South Carolina
49	Upper Deschutes River	Oregon
50	?	?

Now that we only have three more rivers to visit, we realize that 50 is not enough; 50 is just a start. We couldn't make it back to the Northeast, for example. And don't even get me started on the territory we missed by not getting up to Alaska. In fact, grab a

copy of our book in October (pre-sale is available on Amazon now), and you'll find a slightly different set of 50 rivers. With

a broader geographic representation, the few rivers in the book that we didn't visit will be on the next list.

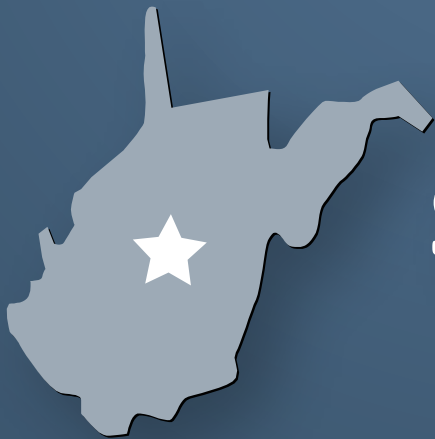




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WHITEWATER HISTORY

A LESSON FROM THE PAST: THE GREAT HUDSON RIVER RUN AND RIVER ACTIVISM ADVICE FROM 1968

BY ROBERT HARRIGAN



Sketch by M Morse accompanying this article in its original iteration, in the Spring 1968 issue of the *American Whitewater Journal*.

Editor's Note: This is a reprint from the Spring 1968 edition of the *American Whitewater Journal*. The inspiration for republishing this piece is, of course, the celebration this October of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act becoming law. In going back into the AW archives, however, I encountered many other fascinating and worthy pieces, especially from the period just before, during, and after the passing of this monumental piece of river conservation legislation. So much of the good *American Whitewater* has accomplished since 1968 has been made possible by the Act, whether directly or

indirectly, and in re-reading articles from this era, you can really feel that those pioneers of American river conservation understood what a game changer it would be. One thing I personally love about this piece is the seemingly incidental description in the opening paragraphs of the occasion on which Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, and Robert F. Kennedy, US Senator and presidential candidate (not to mention their entourage of journalists, family, and aides) were escorted down the Hudson River in New York by enthusiastic paddlers hoping to impart the value of rivers and the need to protect them. This was a bold success

for the river conservation movement that likely helped the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that next fall, and I believe there are lessons here for current river conservation activists. Here's to many more successes for rivers all across the country!

IT BEGAN TO dawn on me that I had bitten off more than I could chew. It had looked like a fun rapid from above. Reflected sunlight sparkled off medium-sized waves. John Berry, my bowman on countless trips, and I had run it in much higher water several years ago. My recollection was of a long rapid, possibly a mile of continuous

action, a few low ledges, some boulders, but plenty of room to maneuver. The Upper Hudson in New York had seemed like an exuberant friend when I had reached this rapid on my previous trip. Now, what had been a delight before was about to turn into a disaster of embarrassing and possibly painful proportions. A grim and cruel river appeared intent on upsetting me.

How Did I Get Here?

A worried glance at my bowman revealed no information as to his concern or distress. But then how much can you tell from an expressionless broad back even if it does belong to the Secretary of the Interior? Oh why, oh why had I decided to entice him out of a safe rubber raft into my Berrigan canoe? The thoughts of 73 people, including Senator Robert Kennedy, the intrepid Mrs. Kennedy, their children,

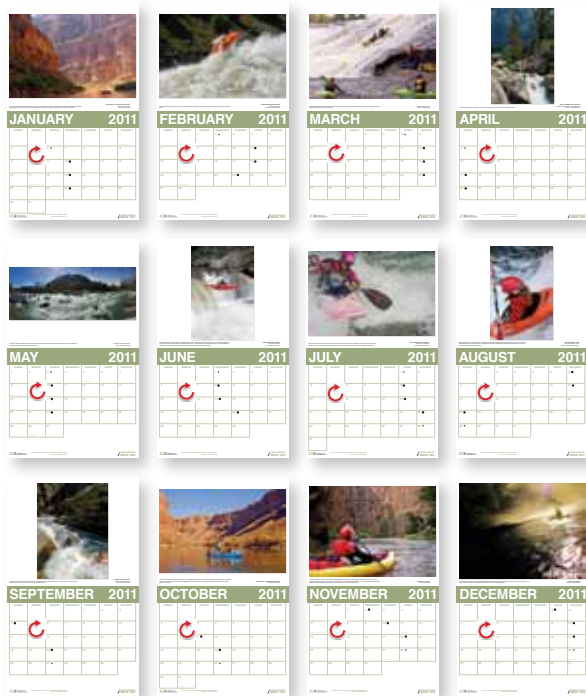
the news media, and many members of the boating fraternity seeing a wallowing upset canoe with a member of the President's Cabinet and the trip leader clinging to it was just too much to bear.

I had to stop asking myself, "How did I get here?" The situation called for every bit of skill and determination I possessed. In a blur of action I can remember the pain of a draw stroke that pulled a canoe completely on its side back to an even keel. Then there was the panic brace to keep from going over on the opposite side. My bowman had become a passenger, coolly gripping the cockpit coaming, riding out the white water assured that his "expert" sternman knew what he was about. My thoughts were only for the finish of this cursed rapid. Thank God, not all my strength had disappeared over the years. We were still afloat at the

bottom, I'm convinced, only because of the same kind of luck that might let a man survive a ride over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

The question, "How did I get here?" comes back to me again. Thinking back, I can say that my participation in the May, 1967 trip on the Hudson came from a number of causes. Like lots of people, I am unashamed of my excitement and thrill at being with some of the great personalities of our time—even if only because I can paddle a canoe. But apart from the ham in my soul that makes me enjoy being near the limelight, I've been inspired to promote or assist in outings like this one because I have found that they are a means of helping to preserve the outdoor places I cherish, which would otherwise soon disappear under man-made "improvements." I'd like to share with you some of the successful

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Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall in the bow and the author, Robert Harrigan, in the stern on the Hudson (NY) in May, 1967.

techniques that are being used by amateurs like ourselves in the field of conservation. They are by no means original with me or even the organizations to which I belong. Nor are these methods the only effective ones being used. However, we have found some modes of conservation action that are uniquely adapted to use by outdoorsmen who are willing, if necessary, to prepare testimony and write letters and give speeches—but are probably most effective when they are doing what they enjoy most: being in the out-of-doors and showing others what they have found there.

Perhaps the two main guidelines I would suggest for the outdoorsman turned conservationist would be: 1) Get together with others who believe as you do—find out who and where your friends are and work with them; and 2) call attention to yourselves and what you do. Let officials know that you are a force to be reckoned with, that you are politically active, that you are watching what they do in the field of conservation, and that you can be the

source of either favorable or unfavorable publicity for them.

Conservation Begins With an Individual Who Cares

To me, conservation begins with the individual. No preservation will be possible without man's reaction to the land and the water, whether it be atavistic, intellectual, spiritual, or otherwise. If men love their natural environment, some small corner of the earth may remain unchanged. The threat to some unspoiled area by, say, a dam or a highway, an airport, or a collection of cottages, stores, and beer joints is too personal a loss to endure without a struggle. To continue unthinkingly to enjoy a favorite haunt until the day it is despoiled, is to my way of thinking now but a form of exploitation of the most callous sort. The unspoiled country is fast disappearing under the press of population. An affluent society with an increasing amount of leisure time is ranging out to fish, hike, hunt, rock-climb, canoe, or just loaf in the sun. Entire communities are being built in some of the most attractive natural settings to be found.

Their sales literature lures the prospective buyer with scenes of the great outdoors. Such resorts have a place in the overall scheme of things. But there should be an ever-increasing number of places under public ownership that are able to remain basically undeveloped. These should be acquired at a much faster pace now than in the past. This is particularly true in the East where such a tremendous crush of population exists. Without a certain range or expanse, the possibility of a moving outdoor experience is very limited.

You Are Not Alone

Personal feelings concerning the threat to treasured outdoor areas, unless communicated to others and acted upon, only lead to frustrations. You have to find others who feel as you do, or others who can be convinced to share your ideas, before any saving or conservation can be accomplished. Many times a natural setting is enjoyed by many more people than you might realize. While you participate in one or two outdoor recreational pastimes in a favorite retreat, some investigation might reveal that the same area is used by fishermen, hunters, rock-climbers, hikers, canoeists, bird-watchers, skiers, cave-explorers, and others. All of these recreationists will be as concerned as you are about a proposed dam, highway, or commercial development. If you bother to get in touch with some of them you will often find that they belong to some organization. It might be the Izaak Walton League, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the American Canoe Association, the National Speleological Society, or some local organization. Here lies a chance to spread news of impending danger, to discuss possible solutions, and to work toward some coordinated effort. Every organization has some kind of newsletter and most hold periodic meetings. Depending on what is at stake and how well you sell your cause, you may be able to have an article placed in these newsletters, or be invited to meetings as a guest speaker. As an expression of concern or antipathy towards

a development beginning to take shape, it must focus on a positive outlook toward the “establishment,” usually a local or Federal government body that can make changes. Elected officials are usually sensitive to the attitudes of their constituencies, particularly around election time. State senators, representatives, mayors, state Department of Natural Resource officials, and others can be extremely helpful. This is particularly true if the local populace is in agreement with your viewpoint. Unfortunately, this isn’t always so. In cases where the local inhabitants and those seeking outdoor recreation don’t see eye to eye, sometimes a sincere and reasonable public relations campaign using a network of friends and personal acquaintances can uncover latent conservation support and help to take the teeth out of the opposition. Sometimes support will have to be found

in the urban areas where the users reside. It may be that a case must be made on the basis of the growing need for open spaces to serve the great centers of population. Don’t forget, as you state your case, that you are not speaking for yourself alone, but also for future generations.

The Conservation Shindig

Perhaps one of the most effective ways to get people to rally around the flag is to hold some kind of outdoor event. Dramatize it by timing it with some pending legislation such as a conservation measure or a plan for undesirable development that must be stopped. The best kind of event is one that involves all the users of the area. This can be a sort of outdoor jamboree with scheduled hikes, visits to caves, bird banding exhibitions, bicycle sprints, rock climbing, canoe, or raft river cruises, and

other activities that you have enthusiastic people to conduct. Sure, it takes a lot of work, but it is surprising to see how many people are willing to shoulder the load, if they can participate in a favorite activity and demonstrate their particular expertise. These jamborees can be elaborate weekend events or simpler short excursions. A well-publicized hike inviting everyone who is interested can be an excellent and simple way to draw attention to the need to protect a valuable piece of countryside. Whitewater canoe races have been very successful in bringing before the public the excitement and adventure of the nation’s many beautiful wild rivers. The annual Potomac River White Water Race near Washington, D. C. has been dramatizing the beauty of the river since 1956. Petersburg, West Virginia, now has an annual whitewater weekend that draws

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tourists and celebrities and calls attention to the beauties of the North Fork.

Set the Stage for the Decision-Makers

With certain of these events it is desirable and appropriate to hold an evening meeting that brings together the dam builders, the highway planners, the resort operators, the local inhabitants, the politicians, and you, the conservationist and user of the area in question. It is important that an atmosphere of mutual trust prevail and that the meeting not be allowed to degenerate into an ugly demonstration of prejudices. I've never seen this happen, because usually everyone wants to put forward his most reasonable arguments.

There have been a few tense moments, I must admit, for example, when conservationists around Washington used to try to talk about the Army Corps of Engineers' plans for high dams on the main stem of the Potomac. A meeting like this should serve to let our public officials, planners, and lawmakers know what an important segment of the people want. This is a more positive thing to do, in my opinion, than simply protesting. Try to get the officials concerned out into the area you are talking about by foot, by canoe, or by raft. Give the area a chance to impress those you want to convince. Be prepared to take into account the need for certain areas for mass recreation. Not every area needs formal wilderness status for its preservation. You must take the trouble to become informed and to work with those who have experience and expertise in the field of conservation.

Then too, a lot of preserving should take place before any serious threat is imminent. Let's get the Upper Hudson or the Salmon recognized as streams worth saving as they are right now. Why wait to fight for them until after a dam, or highways, or vacation homes have been planned?

Follow Your Leaders and Vice Versa

No better atmosphere has existed in this country since Theodore Roosevelt's time for the preservation of America's natural heritage. The President of the United States and Mrs. Johnson have identified themselves personally with the cause of making and keeping the country beautiful. Never before have we had a Secretary of the Interior be actively concerned and involved in the creation of new parks, water and air pollution abatement, the designation of wilderness areas. He's a whitewater enthusiast who lets out a wild whoop when he comes to one of those Class IV rapids we love so well. We have seen a new burst of congressional activity in the field of legislation to protect open spaces and abate air- and water-pollution. Every day we read in the press of new awareness of conservation problems and new action.

The receptivity of the press to news of pending conservation or outdoor recreation activity is excellent now. You can take advantage of this by inviting one of your congressmen or other officials to participate in the event you have planned. Hardly any man who must run for office can turn down a good offer for some free favorable publicity.

The sport of whitewater boating is a natural for this purpose. It offers action, excitement, and beautiful photogenic scenery. It is closely associated with conservation—water pollution control, wild rivers, wilderness areas. You don't need a very large crowd to attract one of your leading politicians to hand out awards at a race or to give a little speech at one of your events lauding his record on the preservation of wild and scenic rivers. Let your representatives both in Washington and your state capital know that there are voters and activists watching their record on conservation matters. Be quick to hand out the kudos in your newsletters and be quick to arrive with the delegation of protest.

Individuals and organizations should also be alert to opportunities to support prominent conservationists. I remember vividly how Supreme Court Justice Douglas challenged the *Washington Post* editors in 1954 to hike the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal from Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, D. C. At that time the *Post* editorially favored a highway to be constructed in the bed of the canal. The editors responded to the challenge, and in no time a crowd of illustrious as well as garden variety hikers had joined the Justice. The celebrities drew the press. It is said that the *Life* man ran the entire 189 miles backwards snapping photos all the way. This was the beginning. Supporters of the Justice have kept alive a C. and O. Canal Association with an annual commemorative hike. But since that time neither the *Washington Post* nor any elected official from this area has dared to suggest that the Canal towpath be used for anything but outdoor recreation.

Prominent officials can also often be persuaded to appear at outdoor events and enhance their publicity value. I can remember Roland Palmedo bringing the Governor of Vermont to the National Slalom Championships on the West River for several years. The people of Petersburg, West Virginia talked Governor Smith of their state into handing out the awards and speaking on the need to save our rivers at the 1966 Petersburg White-Water Weekend. The Potomac River White-Water Race has had Secretary Udall to give out awards and has both congressmen and congressional candidates participating in the race.

There is a good chance that many more of our rivers can be preserved if whitewater boaters and other outdoor sportsmen will join together and let the responsible officials know what they want saved. But there isn't any time to spare. **If we expect our children to be able to enjoy the rivers as we do, we must act now.**

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WHITEWATER HISTORY

RIDLEY SCOTT'S LOST WHITEWATER COMMERCIAL: THE STORY OF A BEER COMMERCIAL FILMED ON THE YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER IN 1973

BY DAN DEMAREE



Ridley Scott uses an Arriflex camera to line up a shot for the movie *Alien* in 1978. This was the same type of 35 MM camera that he used in 1973 to film the Schaefer beer commercial.
Alamy stock photo

IN JUNE 1973, David Kappes, a producer of TV commercials, called Lance Martin, the owner of Wilderness Voyageurs, to see if the Youghiogheny River in Ohio, Pennsylvania would be a good location for filming a television commercial.

According to Martin, Kappes explained that he was under contract to produce three commercials for Schaefer Beer involving outdoor themes: horseback riding, whitewater canoeing, and bicycle camping. They had just completed filming the first commercial. However, the water levels were too low in the Adirondacks to

film the whitewater commercial there, so a kayaker had suggested that Kappes check out the Youghiogheny River.

At that time, a Manhattan-based advertising agency, BBD&O, represented Schaefer, and they selected Sunlight Pictures of New York to shoot the commercials. Sunlight Pictures hired David Kappes to oversee the production; Sunlight also happened to represent the USA rights for an up-and-coming director named Ridley Scott. BBD&O wanted Scott, who was becoming known for a real visual flare in his work, to direct the commercials.

In this case, David Kappes was wearing a number of hats: serving as the producer, assistant director, and location scout on the shoot. Kappes was ultimately responsible for making sure that the commercial got filmed and produced, so he was keenly interested in finding a great location for filming.

Lance Martin assured Kappes that Ohio would be a great location because of reliable water levels on the river, and the availability of a professionally trained guide staff to offer support for filming. The lower Yough (pronounced Y-o-k) has regular

water releases from the Youghiogheny dam in Confluence, Pennsylvania each day to augment water flows and to assist with flood control on the Monongahela River as it flows northward to Pittsburgh.

In the mid-1960s, recreational rafters and kayakers started to take advantage of these flows to run the lower Yough on a regular basis. Because the Yough had easy access to the rapids from Ohiopyle, it was an ideal location for filming. This is especially true of the first one-and-a-half miles of the Yough, known as “the loop.” As seen from the air, the loop is a section where the river winds in a semi-circular pattern around Ferncliff Park Nature Reserve, so that paddlers can start at the put-in below a 25-foot drop known as Ohiopyle Falls, run the first six rapids, take out below Railroad Rapid, and then walk up a short, steep trail back to the starting point.

At that time, there were four whitewater rafting outfitters in Ohiopyle: Wilderness Voyageurs, Mountain Streams & Trail Outfitters, Whitewater Adventurers, and Laurel Highland River Tours, each offering professionally guided raft trips on the lower Yough. During peak summer season, each outfitter was taking up to four trips per day, down the full seven-and-a-half-mile stretch of river, with up to 62 paying customers per trip. A typical trip would feature one guide in the lead raft, one guide in the sweep raft, and one or two safety boaters who paddled along in kayaks.

The guides would give safety talks before the larger rapids and then show customers in the non-guided rafts the safest, most fun route through them. If customers fell out of the rafts, the safety kayakers were trained to pull them back into their rafts and pick up any stray paddles floating down the river. These outfitters thrived on the lower Yough for the same reasons that it

was a good place to film a commercial—easy access, and good Class II-III rapids that were entertaining without being too dangerous.

One week after Martin had received the initial phone call, David Kappes showed up in Ohiopyle. Since my brother, Dave Demaree, worked for Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters, the company’s retail store, he wound up talking with Kappes and took him down the loop of the Yough in a 12-foot inflatable raft to do preliminary location scouting. Dave Demaree, age 27, and me, Dan Demaree, age 19, had both earned reputations as top-level expert whitewater boaters, from leading other paddlers down the Upper Yough, a much steeper, more hazardous section of the Youghiogheny River in Maryland. In addition, my brother drove Kappes around the area to show him the local restaurants and hotels, after which Kappes made reservations for the film crew at the Holiday Inn in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Within a week, Ridley Scott, an intellectual, witty, bearded, 36-year-old director from

England showed up with a crew of 10-plus people from Sunlight Pictures of New York, all specialists in various aspects of filming or support. Shortly after arriving, the casting director interviewed a number of local raft guides, looking to select six people to participate in the commercial. Word spread that each boater would receive \$2,000 plus residuals for their part in the commercial, with rumors of free beer, so there were a number of guides and local canoeists who were eager to participate.

Because of the advance work he did with Kappes, Dave Demaree was given a pass on the interview process and was assigned to paddle in the stern of one of the Grumman aluminum canoes with a beautiful, blonde actress, hired by Sunlight Pictures, paddling in the bow.

Todd Martin, an avid whitewater canoeist in his early 50s who owned several metal foundries in Pennsylvania, was selected to paddle in the stern of the second canoe. With a touch of gray hair at his temples, Todd was chosen to represent the middle-aged market. John Gerwig, a 20-year-old



Lance Martin addressing rafting customers at the put-in of the lower Yough in the early 1960s.

WHITEWATER HISTORY

raft guide for Wilderness Voyageurs, with bleach blonde hair and boyish good looks, was chosen to paddle in the bow of the canoe with Todd.

The third Grumman canoe was paddled by the wiry, ever-smiling Lance Martin in the stern, and Dee Dee Reddick, a 17-year-old outdoorsy, blonde girl who worked at the Wilderness Voyageurs snack bar, in the bow. Dee Dee recalls, "I thought it would be a lot of fun to be in this commercial and that it might lead to other opportunities, so I fibbed and said I was 18 when the casting director interviewed me."

Two days prior to filming the commercial, Dave Demaree took Ridley Scott and David Kappes down the loop of the Yough in a

raft to scout specific locations for filming. On the following day, Ridley and Kappes drove a panel truck around the perimeter of Ferncliff Park to scout out the rapids of the loop from shore. At each point, they walked down to take a look at Entrance Rapid, Cucumber, Camel and the Walrus, Eddy Turn Rapid, Dartmouth Rapid, and Railroad Rapid. Ridley took notes about precisely where the sun would be in relation to each rapid at any given time of day.

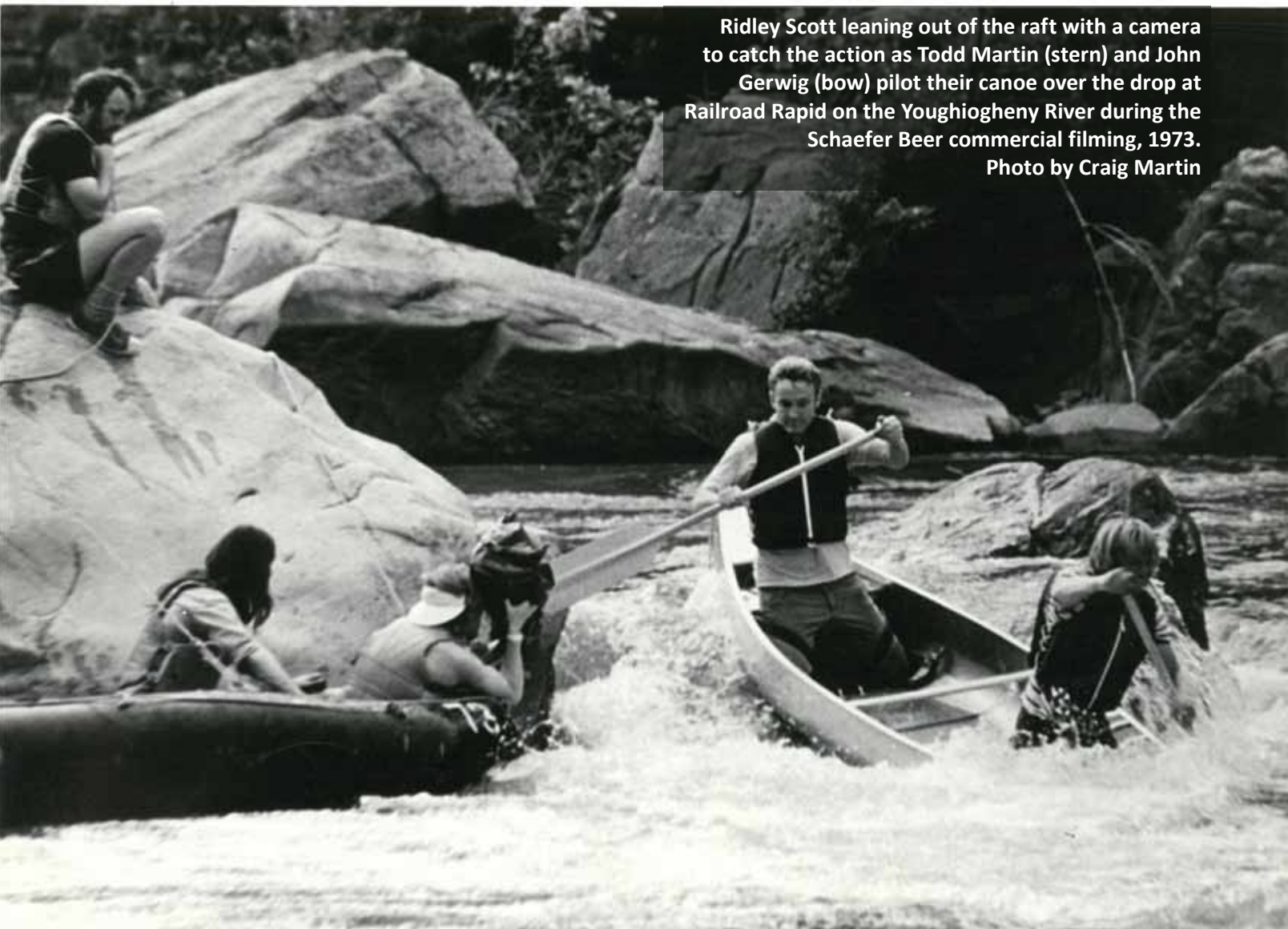
In addition, the wardrobe stylist advised all of the participants to wear the same clothing for both days of the shoot and she told the men not to shave. Sunlight Pictures had supplied a trailer full of 12 Grumman aluminum canoes, assuming that some of them would be destroyed while filming

the action shots, but as it turned out, the additional canoes were not necessary.

The actual commercial shoot began early on Wednesday, June 20, 1973, taking two full days, with the cast and crew working 12 hours a day. Scott Leggett, a stocky, bearded raft guide for Wilderness Voyageurs said, "The professional actor and actress were extremely nervous at the sight of the river. So I took the actress's spot in the canoe with Dave Demaree for the initial trip down the loop."

Fred "Muskrat" Maskrey, the manager of Wilderness Voyageurs, with dark black hair and distinctive mutton chops, paddled the raft with Ridley Scott, David Kappes, and Alan Metzger, the director of photography,

Ridley Scott leaning out of the raft with a camera to catch the action as Todd Martin (stern) and John Gerwig (bow) pilot their canoe over the drop at Railroad Rapid on the Youghiogheny River during the Schaefer Beer commercial filming, 1973.
Photo by Craig Martin



on board, down each rapid first, to set up for filming. Muskrat said, "We paddled down the right-hand side of Cucumber to avoid the larger waves, and then we ferried to the rocky shoreline on river left, so that Ridley could film the three canoes coming down Cucumber."

Scott Leggett added, "The surging four-foot choppy river waves in Cucumber Rapid swamped the canoes up near the gunwales, but none of us tipped over. However, Ridley was satisfied with one take and directed us to continue downstream."

After that, they paddled down to a sandy beach just upstream from Railroad Rapid to film the campfire scenes. The rest of the film crew hiked in and was ferried across the river to assist in the beach scenes. Ridley filmed multiple scenes of the canoes paddling into the sandy beach, with people getting out and walking towards the campfire.

At that point, both the professional actress and Dee Dee Reddick were passing out beers to the guys around the campfire. Dee Dee said, "Ridley must have shot 15 different close-up scenes of our hands as we passed out beers to the guys. At that point, I figured that whether I wound up in the paddling scenes or not, my hands would probably be in the commercial."

Kappes explained, "These close-ups of the girls passing out the beers were part of the 'product shots' for BBD&O ad agency and for Schaefer, so they were the most important shots of all."

This was followed by scenes of the guys and gals just sitting, joking around, and drinking beer, as the firelight carried them into the early evening hours. Dave Demaree recalls, "One day I am working in a retail store selling canoes, kayaks, and outdoor gear, and then, here I was, spending a nice sunny day on the clear green waters of Youghiogheny River, with a stunning blonde woman, drinking beer by the campfire. It can't get much better than that!"

After a very long day of filming, the weary canoeists and actors ferried back across the river to the take-out to call it a day and get a good night's rest. Feeling the need to cool herself off, Dee Dee stood poised to dive into a deep pool in the river, but lost her footing and plunged head first into a shallow area. She emerged from the river with a loud scream and the crew was alarmed to see blood pouring out of a gash on her forehead. At that point, the guides sprang into action, helping Dee Dee lie down on a beached raft and wrapping a towel around her head to staunch the bleeding.

Dee Dee recalls, "I was really dazed and my head hurt like crazy. I wasn't sure of the extent of the injury, but it was a head wound and the first towel that they held to my head was soaked in blood."

With no time to get an ambulance to this location, Lance Martin and one of the guides assisted Dee Dee in walking up the loop take-out trail. Then one of the guides drove Dee Dee to Uniontown Hospital where she was admitted to the emergency room. The ER doctor, who had just returned from active duty in the military, was well-equipped to handle this injury.

When the doctor explained what he was going to do, Dee Dee said, "Please do whatever you can, so that I can continue my part in the commercial tomorrow!"

The doctor cleaned the wound, put in 48 stitches across Dee Dee's forehead and wrapped it in protective gauze. He said, "You probably won't feel up to filming tomorrow, but if you do, you'll have to wear



Dee Dee Reddick, dressed for the Schaefer Beer commercial that she took part in filming in 1973.

something over this bandage to protect the injured area."

As she lay recovering in the emergency room, Dee Dee was surprised to see Ridley Scott and another one of the film crew walk into the room. Ridley walked over to Dee Dee, who was reclining in the emergency room bed and said, "How are you doing dear? You really gave us a scare!"

Dee Dee recalls, "I was really touched that Ridley went out of his way to come see me, especially after such a long day of filming. I already liked Ridley as a person, but I had even more respect for him after that."

During the course of the visit, Ridley discovered that Dee Dee was actually only 17 years old, not 18, as she had previously claimed. This raised a delicate issue, because they had unknowingly filmed Dee

WHITEWATER HISTORY



The author paddling on the Savage River in 1973 in an Augsburg 3 Prijon, likely the same boat that he paddled as a safety boater below the filming at Railroad in 1973.

Dee drinking beer in some of the scenes earlier in the day. Dee Dee said, "I found out later that they had to cut out any scenes of me drinking beer, but they could still use the scenes where I handed out beer to the others."

After a short night of rest, the cast and crew walked down the steep loop take-out trail, which some of the film crew called "Cardiac Hill," to reassemble for the second day of filming. Ridley focused on filming multiple runs of the three canoes down Railroad Rapid. This rapid starts out with a flat pool at the top, followed by a drop over a four-foot ledge into a recirculating wave known as "Charlie's Washing Machine," and then an "S-turn" series of rapids through a maze of large boulders, ending in a flat pool at the bottom. And, despite her injury, Dee Dee did show up for day two of filming, but she wore a bandana around her head to cover up the injured area.

The previous night, David Kappes had asked Lance Martin to assign his top two kayakers to help rescue the paddlers or

actors, if needed, especially after Dee Dee's accident. In response, Lance assigned Jim Snyder and me, both safety boaters for Wilderness Voyageurs, to hang out below the rapids and help with rescues.

Early in the day, Ridley set up the Arriflex 35-millimeter movie camera on a tripod on a large, flat boulder at the edge of the river, just below the mid-point of the rapid. The German-made Arriflex was the camera of choice for outdoor filming because of its reputation for holding up well in even the most extreme shooting conditions. Ridley gave directions to the actors through his bull-horn. At times, he would playfully bump the bullhorn on his chest, which emitted a loud beeping sound. Most of the time, the majority of the film crew were just sitting around, and I wondered why they needed so many people just to film a 60-second TV commercial. But I did notice that the guy who brought sandwiches and drinks to the rest of the film crew was quite popular.

Early on, the lighting was less than ideal for filming. While waiting for conditions to improve, Ridley would ask Jim Snyder and me to paddle our 13-foot long fiberglass kayaks up to the eddy just below Charlie's Washing Machine and then paddle down the various chutes so that he could view us through his camera.

Giving directions through the megaphone, Ridley would say, "Come on Dan and Jim. Just paddle up that rapid one more time."

Jim and I were in great condition, but Ridley wore us out, having us paddle upstream against the current and then back down a number of times. I don't think he had any idea about how difficult that was. Later, when David Kappes heard this comment, he laughed and said, "Ridley does not know or even care how difficult the shot is. He is totally focused on getting the shot done perfectly."

In addition to waiting for good lighting conditions, this was right in the middle of the summer rafting season. The crew had one of their guys stationed on a boulder at the top of the rapid with a walkie-talkie. He was in charge of asking the various raft trips and private kayakers to hold up in the eddy above Railroad until filming on a particular scene was finished. At some points, there were approximately 150 people waiting in rafts and kayaks for the signal that all was clear so that they could paddle downriver. When the signal was given, it was like a wild rush of rafts, kayaks, and canoes, all bouncing, spinning, and careening through the rapids.

When conditions were right, Ridley would call, "Action!" and the boaters would paddle their Grumman canoes over the ledge and through the S-turn at Railroad Rapid. They repeated this scene five or six times by mid-afternoon, which involved portaging the canoes back up the rocky trail on the side of the river between takes.

After getting enough film of canoes going down the top and center of the rapid,

Ridley directed everyone to get set up to shoot some scenes of the canoes paddling lazily down the small riffles below Railroad. Muskrat was in charge of getting J.J., a prop specialist with the film crew, into a strategic position to set off smoke bombs to hide the large railroad trestle that was approximately 100 yards downstream of the rapid. Muskrat and J.J. paddled their 12-foot inflatable rubber raft over to a large, flat boulder located just on the right side of Railroad Rapid's main ledge. Muskrat tethered the raft to a piton in the rock and cinched the rope tight so that the current wouldn't pull the raft loose.

Muskat recalls, "We had to duct-tape about a dozen smoke bombs to the side of the boulder first, then pull the tabs quickly one after another, all while standing on a narrow rocky ledge just a few inches above the water's edge. These were extremely difficult working conditions. We could feel an intense wall of heat from all of these bombs going off, plus we were coughing like mad from being immersed in the putrid smoke while struggling to set off the final few bombs. And in the midst of this craziness, we could hear Ridley yell, 'I can still see part of the bridge. I say, J.J., a little more smoke behind the rock please!'"

At that point, the smoke billowed downriver, making it look like a fog on the river. They were able to film the shot of the canoes paddling down river on the first take.

Kappes commented, "Ridley liked the way the smoke diffused the light." The use of smoke later became a trademark in many of Ridley's early Hollywood movies.

After shooting the canoe scenes from the same large boulder for most of the day, Ridley directed the support crews to set up for some extreme close-up shots of the canoes going over the main ledge. With Ridley, David Kappes, and assistant director of photography Rick Raphael now on board, Muskrat ferried the raft back to the same large boulder where they had set off the smoke bombs.

Dee Dee said, "Although we were all quite tired by that point, we portaged the canoes back upriver and then paddled over the main drop at Railroad again, so that Ridley could film close-ups of us smashing through the Charlie's Washing Machine hydraulic. He seemed to be quite pleased with the shots he was getting from within the heart of the rapid."

Despite the danger, Ridley urged Muskrat to move the raft closer to Charlie's Washing Machine, so that he could take one final close-up shot. Against his better judgment, Muskrat pushed off of the boulder with his paddle to slowly inch the raft closer to the churning hydraulic.

Sitting immediately downstream of this in his kayak at the time, Jim Snyder recalls, "Just when Muskrat warned that they were getting too close, the powerful current of Charlie's Washing Machine caught the upstream edge of the raft causing it to abruptly tip up on its edge, throwing Ridley headfirst toward the churning water."

Within a split-second, Muskrat leaped quickly forward and grabbed the shoulder strap on Ridley's life jacket, jerking him forcefully back into the raft. At the same instant, Kappes and Ridley fell into the middle of the flooded raft in a mass of tangled arms and legs!

One of the black waterproof bags containing more than \$10,000 worth of lenses was not fully sealed, so it was flooded from the onrushing waters. At that point, Muskrat said, "Oh no! The lenses are totally swamped!"

Once they got back to shore, Rick Raphael took corrective action to dry out the lenses. He said, "After taking part in filming several hundred TV commercials, this is the only time that I ever got lenses wet like this."

After two long days of filming, Ridley wrapped up the shoot and the boaters and crew hauled the boats and other equipment

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WHITEWATER HISTORY



(from left to right) Dave Demaree, Fred "Muskrat" Maskrey, and Lance Martin, all of *Wilderness Voyageurs*, in 1973

Photo by Craig Martin

up the steep take-out trail to the vans which were parked at the top of the hill.

The Schaefer Beer commercial, which reportedly had a working title of "Follow the Sun," was shown during New York Yankee baseball games and New York Islander hockey games in the late summer 1973 and all of 1974.

John Gerwig said, "I remember being surprised at how quickly this commercial was put into production. Since I had grown up in New Jersey near the New York City area, there were a number of people who recognized me in the commercial. Even my old football coach told me that he saw me every evening between innings on the Yankee games."

This commercial showed some great scenes of skilled paddlers paddling down the rapids and then drinking beer around the campfire. And like all of Schaefer's commercials, this one ended with their catchy jingle:

"The most rewarding flavor in this man's world; for people who are having fun, Schaefer is the one beer to have, when you are having more than one!"

Those of us in the whitewater paddling community who spent time with Ridley Scott during the filming of this commercial have cheered from afar for each of his accomplishments ever since.

Although Ridley continued to make commercials for several years, his first historical drama *The Duelists*, starring Harvey Keitel, came out in 1977. After this movie, Scott had originally planned to adapt a movie version of *Tristan and Isolde*, but after seeing the original Star Wars movie, he became convinced of the potential for large-scale, effects-driven films.

This led Scott to drop plans to film *Tristan* and to accept the job of directing *Alien*, the 1979 horror/science fiction movie that first earned him international acclaim. Filmed in Shepperton Studios in England, *Alien* was

the sixth highest grossing film of 1979, earning more than \$104 million worldwide.

Ridley followed up with *Blade Runner* in 1982, *Legend* in 1985, *Someone to Watch Over Me* in 1987, *Black Rain* in 1989, *Thelma & Louise* in 1991, *Black Hawk Down* in 2001, *Matchstick Men* in 2003, *Body of Lies* in 2008, *Prometheus* in 2012, *The Martian* in 2015, and *All of the Money in the World* in 2017.

Ridley's historical drama *Gladiator* (2000) has proved to be one of his biggest critical and commercial successes. It won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor for the film's star Russell Crowe, and it saw Scott nominated for Best Director.

My attempts to track down a copy of the 1973 Schaefer beer commercial have so far been unsuccessful. The Schaefer family sold out to Stroh Brewery Company in 1981 and the company has gone through a few ownership changes since then. Pabst retains the licensing rights to Schaefer today and outsources a reformulated brew it calls "Schaefer" to niche markets throughout the USA. When contacted, a spokesperson for Pabst said that they do not have an archived copy of this particular Schaefer beer commercial.

David Kappes kept a copy of the Schaefer Beer commercial for many years, but had donated it and number of other commercials he produced to a professor who taught media editing and production.

As a group, those of us who played a small part in the making of this commercial are much older now, mostly in our 60s, with a few in their early 70s. Both Lance Martin and Todd Martin have passed away. A few of us, such as Jim Snyder, Scott Leggett, John Gerwig, Dee Dee Reddick, my brother Dave, and I still paddle, but not nearly as much as when we were younger.

Each summer, when I paddle down the lower Yough and get to Railroad Rapid, I

can't help but think about many years ago, when Ridley stood on the rock, giving us all directions through his megaphone. It was a blast! I wish that we could do it all over again. But more than anything, I wish that we could find a copy of Ridley Scott's lost TV commercial, so that we could relive a special moment from our youth, just one more time.



About the Author: In the early 1970s, Dan Demaree introduced a number of whitewater kayakers to the more difficult stretch of the Youghiogheny River known as "The Upper Yough." Dan named some of the major rapids, such as Bastard Falls, Charlie's Choice, and the Double Pencil Sharpener. In 1973, Dan designed the Backender boat, one of the first prototype short whitewater play boats in the USA. In 1974, he (along with Chuck Tummonds) designed the Slipper slalom-racing kayak. In 1976, Dan won the bronze medal in the US Whitewater Slalom Championships in Kernville, California. In 1998, Dan founded a high-tech public relations and marketing agency, DPR Group, Inc (www.dprgroup.com), where he works to this day.
Photo by John Hefti



David R. Kappes is a producer and production manager known for movies such as *Jaws 3-D* (1983), *The Night Flier* (1997), *Tales from the Darkside* (1990), *Dune* (TV mini-series, 2000), *The Langoliers* (based on a book by Stephen King, 1995), *When Calls the Heart* (2013), and many others. In 2001, Kappes won a Primetime Emmy for his dramatic mini-series: *Anne Frank: The Whole Story*. Today, Kappes lives in Long Island, New York and is still actively producing movies.
Photo by Don Cerrone



From 1979 onward, **Jim Snyder** has designed more than 70 whitewater kayaks, including the "Slice," which was the first short, commercially produced kayak in the USA. Jim, along with Jesse Whittemore and a few others, pioneered the sport of squirt boating, and he is the author of the definitive book on the subject, *The Squirt Book: The Illustrated Manual of Squirt Kayaking Technique*. Jim has been building custom kayak paddles, River Styx, for years, and in 2006, was inducted into the International Whitewater Hall of Fame.
Photo by Bill Kirby



In 1975, the US National Canoe & Kayak Slalom Championships was held at the Youghiogheny River. While in the Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters Store, Payson Kennedy (founder of Nantahala Outdoor Center) and **Dave Demaree** overheard some boaters from New England talking about how they were going to "crush the competition" in the Open C-2 class. Upon hearing this, Payson asked, "Dave, do you already have a partner for the Open C-2 class?" After a short pause, Dave replied, "No, let's do this!" With that they entered, and Payson (bow) and Dave (stern) won the 1975 US National Open C-2 Slalom Championships.
Photo by John Sweet



In the early 1960s, **Lance Martin** started taking Boy Scouts down the lower Youghiogheny River in rafts for fun. In 1964, seeing a business opportunity, Lance established Wilderness Voyageurs, which was the first commercial rafting outfitter on the lower Yough. In June 1973, producer and locations scout Dave Kappes placed a phone call to Lance to discuss the logistics for filming the Schaeffer beer commercial in Ohiopyle, PA.
Photo by Bill Kirby

2018 JANUARY-JUNE WHITEWATER ACCIDENT SUMMARY

BY CHARLIE WALBRIDGE

ALTHOUGH THE WHITEWATER community was rocked by the deaths of several well-known paddlers this spring, most of the fatalities this year were caused by a deadly mixture of inexperience and high water. A long, wet spring kept rivers unusually high throughout the East and Midwest, and although Western runoff was low, there were sustained high water periods. There were 34 recreational whitewater deaths so far this year, putting us on a path to one of the worst years in decades. Much of the increase comes from 22 kayaking deaths, the highest number on record. The majority of these accidents, 12, involved “recreational” kayaks not designed for fast-moving water. These inexpensive boats are widely available, and attract many first-time paddlers. It was inevitable that some would end up in fast-moving water and be used to run rapids with tragic results. There were also three canoe and nine rafting accidents, three of which involved professional outfitters and liveries.

The leading cause of death (14 accidents) was failing to wear a life vest. This is a completely avoidable error which, despite decades of boating safety education efforts, still occurs often. There were six flush drownings, seven caused by rock pins or sieves, five that involved strainers, and four from low-head dam hydraulics. High water was a factor in 10 fatalities overall, and 11 occurred on solo or one-boat trips. When a lone raft carrying several people capsizes they’re just as vulnerable as solo paddlers. And, unlike groups of skilled paddlers who

take care of themselves, solo and one-boat trips often need help from first responders.

Experienced Kayakers

Seven experienced kayakers died in the first six months of this year, an unusually high number. On January 11th two local river guides were kayaking in Class III rapids below the mouth of the Canyon on the Kern River near Bakersfield, CA when Seth Smith, 27, pinned on a rock upside down. His companion freed him after a struggle, pulled him ashore, and performed CPR for

The majority of these accidents, 12, involved “recreational” kayaks not designed for fast-moving water. These inexpensive boats are widely available, and attract many first-time paddlers.

45 minutes. A passerby saw the rescue and notified authorities, but Mr. Smith died that evening at a hospital.

An exploratory run of Ecuador’s Abanico River by a group of five international kayak experts ended with the deaths of three kayakers from Great Britain and Ireland on January 20th. The group hiked two days to get to the river and found that persistent rain had produced very high water levels. After unsuccessfully waiting for water levels to drop, they decided to cautiously attempt the run. It went well until they encountered an enormous, complex Class V rapid near the end. Upon entering the rapid the group encountered a number of huge holes; they became scattered and lost all contact with one another. An American and an Ecuadoran kayaker made

it to shore independently, then hiked out; Alex McGourty, David Higgins, and Alex Vaughn died, likely from flush drowning. Their bodies were later recovered by search and rescue teams. The death of three talented young boaters in a single accident is unprecedented and serves as a brutal reminder of how thin our safety margin becomes in extreme high water conditions.

Sam Grafton, a hard-charging professional kayaker and a well-liked veteran of several international trips, died in Ernie’s Gorge on Washington’s North Fork of the Snoqualmie River on February 10th. According to AW’s Tom O’Keefe, Mr. Grafton, 25, was attempting this demanding Class V run at high water with a group of six. He washed into a root ball and was held underwater for about 10 minutes. His life vest came off, and he washed free. His group chased him down

the canyon, portaging several rapids, for almost an hour before they caught him and brought him to shore.

On February 12th the James River through Richmond, Virginia was running very high at 15.9 feet, roughly 70,000 cfs. Two young kayakers were attempting the run when one of them encountered trouble and swam. Posts to the James River Homosapiens Facebook page say that Christian Wood, 17, got caught by a strainer just below Hollywood rapid and was held underwater before washing free. His partner got him ashore at Belle Island and performed CPR until EMS arrived. Mr. Wood died later in the hospital. Local experts say this should remind everyone that very high water completely changes the character of this Class III run, when a number of dangerous

strainers that are normally well out of the water come into play.

North Carolina paddlers were shaken by the deaths of three expert paddlers in two months. The first was as inexplicable as it was sad. Maria Noakes, 50, died while running the Class IV Cheoah River on a March 3rd dam release. Ms. Noakes, an elite whitewater paddler, was very familiar with the run. Paddling with three very capable boaters, she was last seen alive below Bear Creek Falls, upright and in control. Downstream, just above Tapoco Lodge, someone spotted her empty kayak pinned near shore. A search began and her body was located nearby. CPR was attempted without success.

Linville Gorge is one of the longest stretches of sustained Class V whitewater in North Carolina. On April 28th it was running at 2.4, a moderate level, when a two-boat party hiked in to the river on the Babel Tower Trail. The pair was nearing the end of the hard whitewater when Burton Greer, 32, was pinned. Here's a report written by his partner, John Aliff:

"Around 18:00 and 1/8 mile above the Pinch In trail we encountered a smaller rapid that funneled down toward a rock pile in the center. I was about 25 feet in front of Burton when I spotted the sieve within the pile. I hollered for to him to wait and jammed myself into a shallow eddy. Burton continued to paddle toward the pile and I believe his intent was to boof the left corner of the largest rock. Upon touching the rock he was immediately pulled down and back upstream under another rock creating the sieve."

"Burton was badly pinned, but his back seemed to be slowing him from entering the sieve further. Initially there was a pocket of air created by the water spraying over his back and head. By the time I scrambled onto some rocks he had already

sunk a foot lower. I reached him with my rope but he was unable to maintain his grip. It seemed he still had a source of air, but he was quickly sinking deeper into the sieve and after a few minutes his helmet blew off. The sieve consumed my rope bag and I was unsuccessful in my attempts to reach him by hand."

"I was about 25 feet in front of Burton when I spotted the sieve within the pile. I hollered for to him to wait and jammed myself into a shallow eddy. Burton continued to paddle toward the pile and I believe his intent was to boof the left corner of the largest rock. Upon touching the rock he was immediately pulled down and back upstream under another rock creating the sieve."

Mr. Aliff ran upstream to get help from the three boaters they had recently passed. When they returned, Mr. Burton, still in his boat, had washed free. They pulled him ashore, started CPR, and sent for help. Rescue Squads carried his body out of the gorge that evening.

Several commentators noted that Mr. Burton was paddling a modern style river running kayak with a low volume stern. This style of boat may be more prone to pinning and difficult to exit than modern high volume creek boats. It's not clear that this made a real difference, however. Comments have also been made about the dangers of running difficult whitewater with a small group. While a moderate group size (three to six) increases rescue options, it does not guarantee the success of a complex and challenging rescue. Smart paddlers will consider both factors in their planning.

A week later, on May 5th, a kayaker died after pinning in "Go Left" Rapid in North Carolina's Class V Green River Gorge. Matthew Ray, 20, was an experienced

kayaker who had run the river many times. He tried to bail out of his boat, but one leg got stuck inside. He was using a low stern old school playboat that probably contributed to the severity of the pin and increased the difficulty of exiting it. Here's the description of the well-managed rescue attempt from Wade Harrison's Facebook post:

". . . I saw Jeremy standing on Go Left rock holding a rope waving his hand. . . . I just knew right away Matt's pinned his boat in center I went down to the river right eddy jumped out grabbing my rope and pulley gear out my boat. . . I jumped down to the bottom rock close to the hole and a member of Steve's group told me it's Matthew and he flat pinned and it's been awhile. . . . I wanted to think there was hope and yelled for

Grady to come up and help. Going to live bait out and get him out there. I'm very familiar with Go Left and the rock that pins boats you can stand on in the center. I just wanted to get my hands on him and try to get him out and start CPR."

"We all worked fast to set up ropes and I jumped out to center rock and was able to get hands on him. I grabbed him and pulled with everything I had. I knew something was wrong. I dove under and felt his left leg was still in the boat. I tried to free it but could not. I grabbed him by his right hand and neck and shook and pulled with all I had still no luck. I knew at that point only way was to unpin the boat or pull him out with a rope. I yelled for more ropes, tied one to him, and reached back and unhooked the one attached to my harness and went under and clipped that to the bow grab loop. . . . We all pulled and Matt and his boat came out but his left leg was still in the boat and right leg was completely out."

Continued on page 50

AW PARTNERS

\$20,000 - Class V



\$15,000 - Class IV



\$10,000 - Class III



\$7,500 - Class II



\$5,000 - Boof



WERNER



\$2,500 - Wave





Each day American Whitewater faces new challenges that threaten our whitewater rivers. To aid us in this fight, we rely on support from members, donors, foundations, and partners in the industry. Companies throughout the whitewater and outdoor industries are stepping forward to support AW's River Stewardship work. American Whitewater urges you not to make purchase decisions blindly. When you buy your next piece of outdoor gear there are many factors to consider: quality, dependability, comfort, safety, and fashion. American Whitewater hopes you will add one more consideration to this list: corporate responsibility. Support companies that support your rivers.

NORTHWEST RAFTING COMPANY offers guided multi-day whitewater rafting trips on select National Wild and Scenic rivers most of which flow through designated federal wilderness areas.

We are exclusively focused on offering the best whitewater rafting trips in the West. Our truly expeditionary whitewater experiences on the Illinois and Chetco rivers cross the vast Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Our trips on the Rogue and Middle Fork of the Salmon are high energy, family-friendly adventures on two of the most incredible and beloved rivers in the northwest. Our rafting and cultural tour in Bhutan gives the intrepid traveler an unforgettable, soul-stirring understanding of a country that warmly welcomes its visitors but actively protects itself from becoming over-touristed.

Our selective size enables us to offer exceptional whitewater rafting and kayaking trips that adhere to the highest standards of safety, guide experience, and knowledge, and guest comfort on the water and off.

We strive for professionalism and consideration in everything we do, from the first time you contact us until you're home again. With many of our guests repeat customers, and recognition from such leading industry organizations as *National Geographic*, *Traveler*, and *Outside*

Magazine, we are confident you'll find a NWRC trip is a one-of-a-kind, when-can-we-do-this-again adventure.

We believe sharing wilderness and wild rivers is the best way for people to understand the value of our public lands and to become advocates for their conservation and preservation. Unless people know about these pristine places and can experience their transformative power, the wilderness is nothing more than an abstract thought with the potential to be easily consumed by privatization and careless development.

We are inspired by a vision of a country in which our Wild & Scenic rivers are enjoyed and respected, from both intimate and distant perspectives. Our guests build and strengthen their connections with nature, with their fellow travelers, and most especially with themselves.

For the past few years, America Whitewater has partnered with Northwest Rafting Company for a trip on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River focused on our stewardship activities. This trip provides a great opportunity to connect with members in ways that build a lasting understanding of the role of recreation in fostering a stewardship ethic. Join us June 20-23, 2019, on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River. Bookings can be made on the Northwest Rafting Company website.



Join



AMERICAN WHITEWATER Today!

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

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

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

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

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

Membership
P.O. Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723

*Note: AW will never share your information with others

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Member Number: _____

↑ _____ if you have one and know it

Membership Level

\$35 Standard

\$25 Member of Affiliate Club

Club: _____

\$25 Student

School: _____

\$50 Family

\$100 Affiliate Club

\$125 Ender Club (Shirt Size: _____)

\$250 Platinum Paddler (Hoodie Size: _____)

\$400 Supporting Affilitate Club

\$500 Explorer

\$750 Lifetime

\$1,000 Legacy

\$2,500 Steward

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

Donation

Donation of \$ _____

Additional Subscriptions

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

Journal Options

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

Auto-Renew (No Renewal Notices!)

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

Payment

Credit Card Cash Check # _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

SAFETY

“We ferried boat over to the eddy right. I slid down to the boat and used my foot to try to free his left leg while holding the bow grab loop. . . . His leg was at a 90 degree angle and visibly broken. . . . I fell in the water . . . and yelled to ferry him over to river right bank. At that moment he came right out of the kayak. We all grabbed the rope that was attached to him We got a kayaker in the water to ferry that rope over to EMS they pulled Matt across to river left side and started CPR. It was too late; he had been under a very long time.”

On May 27th a veteran kayaker and long-time Search and Rescue volunteer died on Montana’s Rock Creek. Edward Conning, 65, was negotiating this fast-moving Class III-IV run when he and his partner encountered a new river-wide downed tree. It’s not clear if Mr. Conning was trying to drive over the log or trying to avoid it, but he pinned badly. His partner was able to paddle over the log, get to shore, and attempt a rescue. With the help of a third kayaker they released the pin, but they lost their grip on Mr. Conning. He and his boat washed downriver. His body was found, miles away, by Search and Rescue personnel.

No Life Vests – A Deadly Mistake!

Life vests are absolutely essential for safety in whitewater. When the lack of a PFD is combined with high water or the absence of a second boat for rescue, the results are often tragic. Increased sales of inexpensive recreational kayaks by “big box” retailers’ have brought an influx of new people into the sport without safety education. Many do not wear life jackets, and seven of them met death because of this oversight in the first half of this year. The toll was relentless: April 6th: Kaygan Matlock, 26, on the Driftwood River in Indiana; May 6th: Anthony Cooper, 31, on the Elk River in Tennessee; and June 1st, Robin Early, 36, on the Huron River in Michigan. Then on June 10th, during a period of widespread

high water, three recreational kayakers lost their lives: Benjamin Gibson, 29, on the Great Miami River; Carl Henkel, 30, on the Sandusky River, both in Ohio; and Gary Price, 61, on Virginia’s Shenandoah River. In one accident of interest to whitewater paddlers, 46-year-old Christopher Sheetz flipped a double kayak in some Class II rapids near the put-in of the Class IV Granite Section on Colorado’s Arkansas River. His partner swam ashore; he washed downstream. His body was recovered

Life vests are absolutely essential for safety in whitewater. When the lack of a PFD is combined with high water or the absence of a second boat for rescue, the results are often tragic.

below Class V Pine Creek Canyon. His PFD, found separately, was probably carried, not worn.

There were three rafting deaths where paddlers did not use PFDs, and two were exceptionally tragic. On June 2nd Grady and Cash Troyer, aged seven and nine, were rafting Oregon’s Grand Ronde River with their father when their raft hit a rock, throwing them in the water. They were not wearing PFDs and they slipped underwater very quickly. On June 19th John Squires, 72, disappeared after his raft flipped on American Creek in Katamai National Park. Rangers said the man “had extensive experience rafting on Alaskan rivers” but also noted that he was not wearing a life jacket!

Flush Drowning

Although life jackets do increase your safety, they don’t guarantee it. We use the term “flush drowning” to describe deaths that occur when a life jacketed user is overcome by fast-moving, turbulent water. One such accident occurred on February 13th when David Vena, 49, attempted to cross New York’s frigid Wallkill River in

an inflatable kayak. He flipped, and was carried away. His body wasn’t found for almost two months.

This year’s other flush drownings were all rafting accidents. On June 3rd there was a commercial fatality on Colorado’s Clear Creek. A guest fell into the river and was unresponsive when recovered after a long swim. A health problem may have contributed to this death. On Idaho’s Middle Fork of the Salmon River, David J. Glen died after a very long swim on June 9th. Water levels were high. His companions got the 53-year-old man ashore and tried CPR, without success. On June 17th Alfred Tully, 71, and a friend were rafting on Montana’s Rock Creek when their raft capsized after hitting a log. Water levels were high. This was followed by a June 24th accident on Ohio’s

Licking River where James Krofft, 22, fell out of his raft during a run of Blackhand Gorge and was carried away. There was no backup boat to pick up swimmers on either of these last two accidents, an unfortunate oversight.

Lethal Dam Hydraulics

The dangers of the deadly hydraulics at the base of low-head dams has been known for over 50 years, but they still account for about 10% of all moving water accidents. We note a Chinese accident on April 21st, probably the worst low head dam disaster in history. Two Dragon Boats, long, skinny racing craft carrying about 30 people each, capsized in the backwash of a low-head dam on the Taohuajiang River in the city of Guilin. Forty people were rescued, 17 died; no life vests were worn. For video, search YouTube for “Chinese dragon boat accident.”

Back in the USA, the Lansing, Michigan Fire Department was called on February 27th after a kayak and paddle were spotted floating below the Brenke Fish Ladder on the Grand River. The body of Devon Christmas, 24, was found two weeks later.

On May 6th Anthony Brown, 28, ran Mills Dam on Kentucky's Roaring Fork River. Mr. Brown, a first time paddler who was not wearing a PFD, disappeared in the hydraulic and was not found for several days. On May 31st kayaker Alex Denclau, 26, launched his boat below the hydroelectric dam at Fort Dodge, Iowa and was pulled into the hydraulic from downstream! His body was found some distance below here. June 18th saw an especially tragic event. A canoe carrying a woman and three children went over Steele Dam on the Rock River in Milan, Illinois. All were wearing life vests, which unfortunately do not protect you fully in places this dangerous. The woman and two boys, aged eight and nine, were rescued, but five-year-old Marci Chavez drowned.

Strainers

Downed trees in rivers are always dangerous, and were the cause of several fatalities. On January 29th, a lone kayaker disappeared during a run of British Columbia's Capilano River. The next day a helicopter spotted his body under a strainer. On February 27th Cory Wright, 35, disappeared while making a high water run of the Paw Paw River near Watervleit, IN. His companion was unable to help, and his body was found over a month later buried in a log jam. Lastly, 47 year-old Sharlene Wright was killed running Oregon's Rogue River near Grant's Pass, OR on May 28th. Her raft capsized; she washed into a recently downed tree and drowned.

Pinning Accidents

Pins on rocks and sieves can be deadly, especially for less experienced paddlers. Dale Garratt, 56, was a recreational kayak paddler who wanted to try whitewater. On May 15th he found a used playboat online. He took it to The Ledges Park on the French Broad in Asheville, NC. Paddling alone in Class II whitewater, he pinned hard against some rocks. A bystander called 911, and rescuers found him pinned leaning upstream, his

head underwater. Playboats are fun for experienced kayakers, but prone to flipping in inexperienced hands and often hard to get out of. It's unfortunate that this man, a recovered addict who devoted his life to helping others, did not get good advice about boat selection and training.

A man running a wilderness section on Montana's Smith River from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge died after his drift boat hit a rock and capsized. Chad Newbreast, 44, washed under the boat and pinned between it and the rock. His partner got safely ashore and made several unsuccessful attempts at rescue. Neither man wore a life vest.

On June 9th several paddlers were caught in a "sinkhole" on Arkansas' Spring River, northwest of Little Rock. An underground channel through a midstream ledge opened up suddenly at Saddler's Falls, a Class II rapid that sees a lot of rental boat traffic. Sinkholes are common because of the area's karst geology, but are not often seen in the river. Donald Wright, 64, saw a group of struggling paddlers and kayaked over in to help. His boat capsized and he was pulled to the bottom. His body showed signs of a head injury, which may have contributed to his death. The other boaters escaped,

American Whitewater needs your help to gather accident reports to share with other paddlers. First person accounts from experienced paddlers, newspaper articles, and on-line posts are all important.

and officials later used heavy equipment to collapse the sieve. To see the deadly whirlpool, go to YouTube and search for "Spring River Arkansas Sinkhole."

A father and son died on June 22nd after their raft hit a bridge abutment on Idaho's Snake River. Travis Berquist, 37, and Christopher Berquist, four, were trapped when their raft pinned on Bliss Bridge at the

base of Slide Rapids. Rebecca Berquist was thrown free and swam to an island where she was later rescued.

Health Problems

Some deaths result from health issues, rather than a river hazard. On June 2nd Alvin Lino, 62, died after falling out of a commercial raft on the Chattahoochee river in Columbus, Georgia. The "entry" rapid where the accident occurred is a straightforward wave train and he was not in the water very long. He suffered from a variety of medical problems and was unresponsive when brought back on board.

You Can Help!

American Whitewater needs your help to gather accident reports to share with other paddlers. First person accounts from experienced paddlers, newspaper articles, and on-line posts are all important. Since many media articles are inaccurate or incomplete, clarifying comments from paddlers familiar with the area are really useful. And while serious incidents involving skilled whitewater paddlers are quite rare, they often teach us important lessons, help us avoid trouble, and show how to better manage emergencies. Accurate accounts of these accidents also keep malicious rumors at bay, something to consider in this age of Internet gossip. Special thanks go to Trip Kinney and Adam Herzog for their help in getting the accounts of several of the accidents described above.

To report a whitewater accident, near miss, or serious injury, please go to the Safety page on americanwhitewater.org, click "report an accident," and enter the information. Or you can email me at ccwalbridge@cs.com or message "Charlie Walbridge" on Facebook. Feel free to share newspaper articles, chat room posts, or even rumors! I'm not an investigator, but I can run down sketchy reports online to find out what happened. I can also help you prepare an accident report.

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY CARLA MINER

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.

Supporting Affiliate Clubs

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

California

Gold Country Paddlers, Placerville

Colorado

Dolores River Boating Advocates, Dolores

Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Asso, Lexington

New Jersey

KCCNY, Flanders

North Carolina

Mind Body Play, Asheville

Ohio

Keelhaulers, Cleveland

South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville

Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Tennessee

Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Chattanooga

Washington

Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle

Washington Kayak Club, Seattle

Affiliate Club by State

Alaska

Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka

Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Southern Arizona Paddlers Club, Tucson

Thunderbird Outdoor Restoration

Organization, Glendale

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

Auburn River Festival Club, Auburn

River City Whitewater Club, Sacramento

Shasta Paddlers, Redding

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers, San Jose

Colorado

Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver

Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs

High Country River Rafters, Wheatridge

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, Buena Vista

San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride

Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club,

Longmont

Upper Colorado Private Boaters Asso,

Glenwood Springs

Connecticut

Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq, Lakeville

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oak

Wilmington Trail Club, Newark

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Asso, Atlanta

Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburg

Ohio Valley Paddlers, Evansville

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington

Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore

Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Hagerstown

Monocacy Canoe Club, Frederick

Massachusetts

AMC Boston Chapter, Boston

Zoar Outdoor, Charlemont

Minnesota

Rapids Riders, Eagan

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Assn, St. Louis

Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield

Ozark Wilderness Waterways, Kansas City

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

AMC New Hampshire Paddlers, Raymond

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks

New York

Flow Paddlers' Club, Rochester

Outdoor Education/Base Camp, Hamilton

Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Machias

North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh

Landmark Learning, Cullowhee

Providence Day School Paddling Club

Tuckasegee Paddlers, Cullowhee

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus

Friends of the Crooked River, Akron

Oregon

Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland

Hells Canyon Shuttle, Halfway

Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg

Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland

Oregon Whitewater Association, Portland
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oak
Bradford County Canoe and Kayak Club, Sayre
Canoe Club of Centre County, Lemont
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley
Mach One Slalom Team, State College
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts, Limestone
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee,
Sevierville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Recreation Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Nashville

Texas

Houston Canoe Club, Houston

Utah

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

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Float Fishermen of Virginia, Sandy Hook

Washington

BEWET, Bellevue
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
The Mountaineers, Seattle
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Martinsville
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

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

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson
Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

Ontario

Guelph Kayak Club, Elora
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, The Kawarthas

Quebec

Montreal Kayak Club, Montreal

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

By Carla Miner, Membership Manager

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

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

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

JOIN AMERICAN WHITEWATER AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

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

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

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



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

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



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Saving Rivers Since 1954

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\$35

Cheaper than anything in your gear bag, twice as important.

americanwhitewater.org/join

BETTER WHITEWATER TAKES PROTECTING RIVERS

**CALL YOUR ELECTED
OFFICIAL TO SUPPORT
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

TAKE ACTION, CALL 202-224-3121

**“MY NAME IS [YOUR NAME] AND I AM CALLING FROM
[YOUR TOWN AND ZIP CODE]”**

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and I am calling to request your leadership in advancing legislation to establish new Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Expanding our system of Wild and Scenic Rivers is increasingly important as many of our most iconic fish and wildlife species are dependent on rivers, and opportunities to enjoy healthy rivers directly support the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy.

Please support the protection of our nation’s most treasured free-flowing rivers.

Thank you!”



WE MAKE SHOES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

#BETTERTAKESACTION