

BOWLINES

Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association July/August 1999

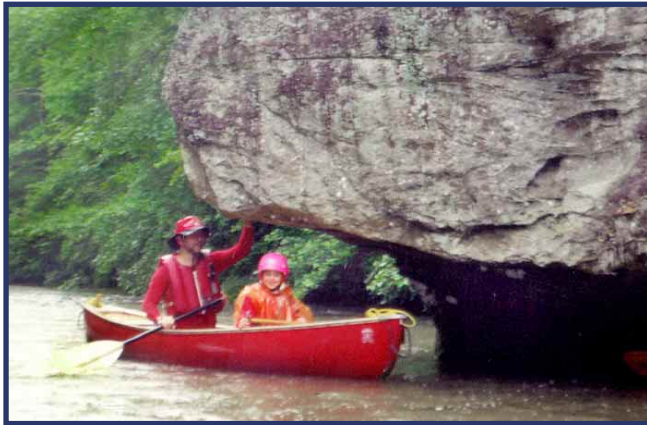
Bulletin!!! Paddler Magazine:

"Bowlines" top honors for (it's) design, content, entertainment and usefulness.... more on pg.3

In This Issue:

**River News & Views, the Elkhorn and the Obed
National Paddling Film Festival 2000 update!
Playdini! The Pudhomme. (Part 2)
Thanks to the Old Guys
Dammed if we do.....Piped if we don't!**

Summer Paddling and BWA Kids!



Rachel & Sam Moore under the cut on North White Oak Creek in Tennessee near the BSF.

Family First Descent

It's easy to leave for boating on Saturday - especially with kids and water in the BSF on a June summer day. Sam, Karen, Rachel, Cynthia, Dan, Emily and I blasted in late morning for Brewster Bridge on the Clear Fork of the BSF above Burnt mill Bridge. The BSF was running about 3500cfs, which made the regular main run too much fun for Emily and me in the K2 or Sam and Rachel in the OC-1+1 but should be about right for the Clear Forks' 10.5 miles of mellow surf filled fun. Along the way Sam suggested we might go bag family first descents on the North White Oak Creek tributary of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland. Nothing like the thought of new territory to get everyone jazzed - we were there.

You probably have seen this creek as it comes in on the river left just about a mile upstream of the Leatherwood takeout on the BSF. Or you might have hiked or biked to it across the O and W bridge. I had always wanted to run this North White Oak Creek as I had paddled the southern creek of the same name.

That time on the south White Oak was a "super secret" trip with Dad Weiland. That's a boating weekend

Continued on page 3



Greg, Jade, Becky, & Eli keeping cool on the French Broad in North Carolina

Paddle the Kids as Best You Can!

"A boating trip with no sexual innuendos? No margaritas at the take-out? No male bashing? Could I do it? Wow - 7 days of good, clean paddling fun. Oh yeah. An exercise in motherhood. Where is that apron?", I thought to myself.

The Parker's arrived from Wisconsin the weekend before Independence Day. We had met the previous summer at Wolf River Paddling Camp, up in the land of cheese, when our kids took a class together. The similarities were astonishing - Greg and Eli both 12 (and precocious); Becky and Jade both 14 (and vegetarian); Tim and I both analytical (and brash). And we all love to paddle! And Tim's wife, Debbie. The woman who would become my friend and confidante. *I would never make a woman shuttle-bunny.* Even the Easter bunny is a male. After two days in Lexington, we headed south.

Day One: French Broad, NC. The level was better than expected - 2410 cfs - but the day was quickly becoming fetid. The water felt great. *Darn - Just passed Big Laurel at 3". A definite run. Beautiful class 3-4. No - Stay on*

Continued on page 5

BWA Annual Reunion & River Rendezvous

From the desk of The South Frankfort Branch of the Land Acquisition Division of the Department of Party Operations:

It's time once again for the annual BWA reunion & party. I know all of you have been dancing a jig in anticipation of the big event. It will be held at Chestnut Creek Campground in West Va. on August 21st. The campground is only 1/3 of a mile down the road from the New River Gorge take-out. I guess you could say we're having a "Newd" party!!!

See Old Friends!

The camping area is flat and wooded. It requires a 40-yard walk from the parking lot. All vehicles (vans, trucks, trailers, ATVs etc.) should stay in the lot. There are fire rings and a covered shelter in our area. The campground offers hot showers, horseshoes, volleyball, and a hiking trail down to the creek.

I told the campground owner that I was concerned about disturbing other campers. The group spot is set apart from the other spots but he said things do stay pretty quiet around there. He does not allow loud music, screaming and yelling. I interpret this as meaning we should leave the drum circle, bottle rockets, dynamite, and shotguns at home. This sounds bad but no commercial campground is going to put up with that.

Have Fun!

We will have a potluck dinner Saturday night. **Please bring a dish to share.** We will have some extremely nice prizes for the winning dishes in the categories of entrée, side dish and desert. I'll let you know what the prizes will be after I go to Big Lots.

The club reserved camping for 60 people Friday night and Saturday night. We had to make a 50% non-refundable deposit and will need to pay as a group. **Please register your vehicle at the office but pay your fees to our Treasurer John Foy."**

Paddle!

Rates are (per person / per night):

- Adult - \$7.50
- 13-17 year olds -\$5.50
- 8-12 year olds - \$4.00
- Under 8 - free

Bike & Hike!

I hope to see you there!!!

Food Contest!

Swimming Contest!

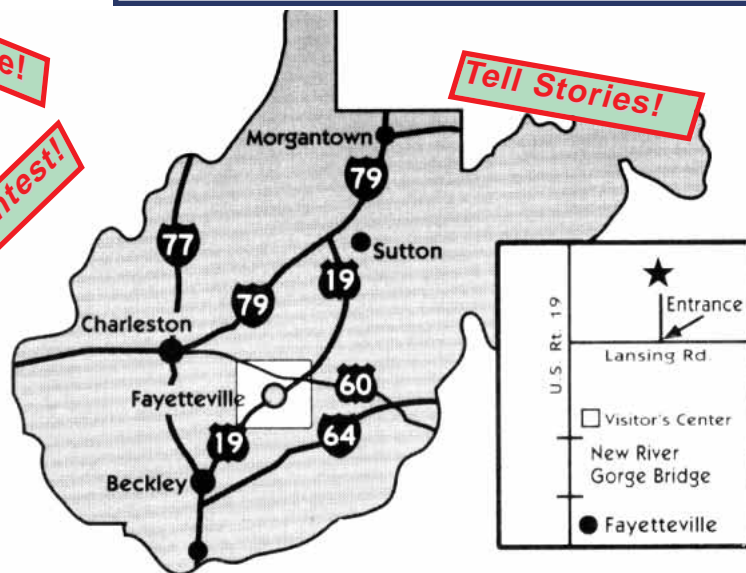
How Do We Get There?

Traveling North on U.S. Route 19, post Fayetteville and the New River Gorge Bridge, turn right onto Lansing Road. Go 1/4 mile to campground entrance on left.

Traveling South on U.S. Route 19, turn left onto Lansing Road. 5 miles south of U.S. Route 60

Beel

Tell Stories!



BOWLINES

Bowlines is the Newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, POB 4231, Lexington Ky, 40544

Club Officers 1999-2000

President	Gary Hoagland	502-682-3967
Vice-President	Amy Shipman	606-278-4326
Treasurer	John Foy	606-278-2536
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National Paddling		
Film Festival Co-ordinator	Zina Merkin	606-268-2508
Equipment Coordinator	Mike Molnar	606-263-4430
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	Tom Hillman	606-624-4373
Past President	Bill Lynch	502-682-3967
Wildwater Cats Rep.	Corrine Voils	606-299-1977

Join in on the Fun!

BWA website: www.surfbwa.org
 Join the BWA! BWA Membership \$15/individual; \$20/Family year entitles you to receive the newsletter, 10% discounts at many local and out of state outfitter shops, use of club kayak, discount at pool rolling sessions, a listing in the BWA Handbook, a stream gauge guide, and web site with a listserve for member's messages.

Meetings are held the at 7:30, the second Tuesday of each Month

Submission of Newsletters articles preferred on zip or floppy disk (Mac or PC) or typed. Pictures can be digital or ready to be scanned. Please included stamped envelope for return. Files can also be e-mailed to: donspang@aol.com or to princv@sprynet.com



BWA Classified:

For sale: Whitewater kayak. Pyranha Razor, red, good condition, fully outfitted, \$400. Call or e-mail George Oberst, 606-986-2193 or red@kih.net

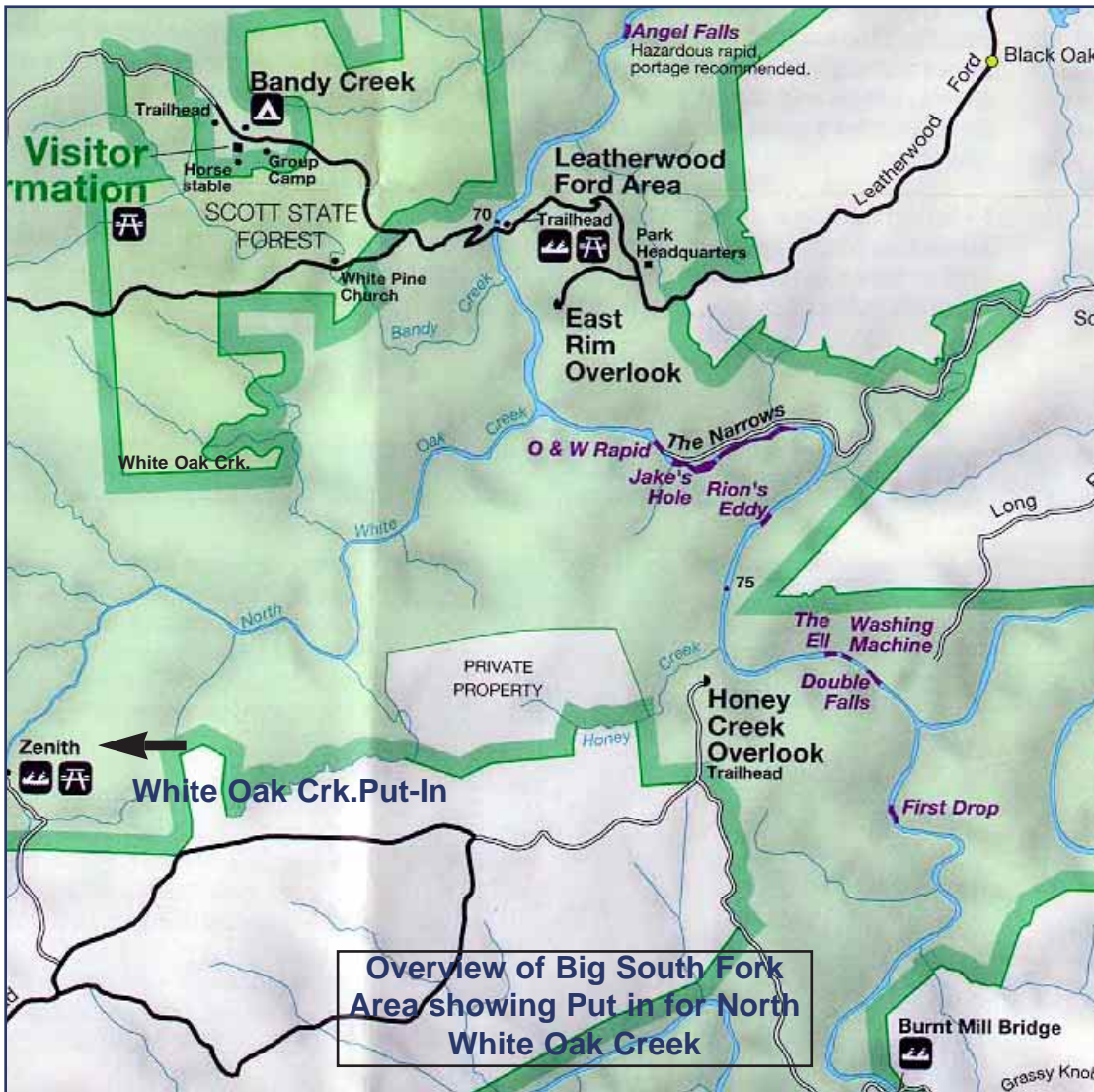
Bowlines chosen as 'top' Paddling Club Newsletter!

From the July-August Issue of Paddler Magazine:

Lexington Ky's Bluegrass Wildwater Association takes top honors for the design, content, entertainment and usefulness of its *Bowlines* publication. If this were an on-line newsletter contest, the club would probably win that too--it went into cyberspace in 1996 and currently e-mails the newsletter to all members in addition to posting each issue online for others to download. In existence since 1976, *Bowlines* is pub-

lished bimonthly and does more than just convey reports to the club's 150 members. "From the very first days of the club *Bowlines* has been a record of our activities and thoughts, says Editor Don Spangler." Early members decided the newsletter should be more than a reporting of trips. We wanted it to reflect out enthusiasm for the outdoors and paddling, and to reflect our humor and thoughts." *Bowlines* unique content includes restaurant reviews, tall tales, opinion articles, cartoons, soap operas and tales of epic journeys.

Editors note: Thanks to Paddler for the recognition and thanks to all the many great people in the BWA for their part in making this such a unique Paddling Newsletter!



TN and we're checking the gage at Leatherwood. 3300cfs - that's a 2 hundred cfs drop since the gage reading earlier that morning. It starts to rain in a big way as we endeavor to find the phone number for Bandy Creek Visitor Center up the hill -to see if we have to shuttle back towards Burnt mill Bridge and around to reach the putin for NWOC at Zenith. After not being able to get through using any of the numbers the park service had posted on it's Leatherwood kiosk information board - we made the steep climb in a good rain across the bridge and up to the visitor center.

It's nice milling at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center where you can find a restroom, some dead animal parts on

"Family First Descent" cont. from pg.1

where even the people on the trip don't know where they are We had to ask a fisherman when we got to the confluence with the Clear Fork did they know the name of the creek we had just run... It wasn't the first time we had impressed the locals on a paddling trip.

Meanwhile, it's about 2pm by the time we reach

a table, and lots of maps. We also found out that their phone number had gone through 2 changes of area code and is now 931-879-3625. There is also a gift shop that sucks kids in like an upstream smiling hole allowing for quality diversion time giving the rest of us an opportunity to become emersed in shuttle logistic calculations at the desk. We began to ponder if a possible 3:30 put in after driving a

“Family First Descent” *cont.*

shuttle we'd never seen before with 3 kids in a pouring rain was doable. Absolutely!

It was decided that we should run the shuttle by dropping Sam's empty Westfalia at the takeout at Leatherwood Bridge and head for Zenith Mine and the putin. According the official park brochure the road to Zenith "... requires a rugged four wheel drive vehicle. Sound Judgement is advised." This would pose no problem as we had plenty of sounds and the judgement was- we were there! Plus, we could all load up in the Armageddon Machine with it's 4X4 and high clearance and handle any road craters we might come across. The A.M. set a rack record that day - 3 kayaks, a topolino duo K2, and an open boat. The best part was putting the open boat on without unloading the K2 or the 3 kayaks.

The shuttle is about 45-50 minutes on mostly paved roads. The last little bit to the creek is way easy and not the heinous 4X4 as cautioned in the brochure - but it is out there from civilization a ways. We wondered how it would be to leave the van alone. There was some comfort in the sight of a 1960s vintage motor home wedged in between a couple of trees on the gravel road very near the putin. We figured any person who could live in a van deep in the wilderness like that was unlikely to be a thief - they already had everything they needed.

It was almost 4 pm when we hit the water. The warm rain became intermittent and combined with the fog, mist, and intimate character of the creek made us feel as if we were in some Central or South American rain forest. The kids were having a great time but their parents were worried. The creek was just barely runnable and we were leaving lots of plastic and ABS on the rocks as we pushed on downstream.

There comes a point in a trip that's questionable where perceptive people must ask themselves - are we out of our minds to do this?! The doubts about our sanity in relation to this adventure began to appear early. We were looking at 7.5 miles of barely running and unknown (to us anyway) creek with our kids in trusting tow. What happens if the dreaded whineeze should set in: "Daddy! I want off this river now!?" Hmmmmmm..... yo, Cynthia did you pack plenty of candy? We pressed on.

The canyons of the N. White Oak Creek are beyond description. They kept coming at us, numerous and beautiful one right after another in seemingly endless series of spectacular scenery. As it was full blown summer the trees were so thick with leaves that the occasional outcropping of bare rock cliffs high up on the canyon rims seemed to float on top of the lush canopy. The mountain laurel were also in bloom and we could smell the fragrance of the huge white clusters of flowers as we floated past.

The character of the white water on N. White Oak Creek is technical but probably not too much more demanding than the Nantahala - only vastly more rapids. There are several rapids that would be a nice, busy class II with more water and a couple that are probably low level class III. It was in one of these "could be" a class III that I had... the incident.

Emily and I were following Sam and Rachel through

a rocky, twisting channel when - boom! I'm pinned in the K2 at the center of the boat and starting to wrap. Emily, being a ww veteran of many rivers with me in the stern of the purple topolino had no doubt that I would soon extract us from this embarrassing and potentially nasty position. She immediately put my mind at ease regarding her status in the bow "DADDY! We're going to FLIP!! YOU GET ME OUT OF HERE NOW!" Ah yes, a 9 yr old in full panic... I know of very few other phenomenon that can produce as much adrenaline within nanoseconds.

Fortunately, Sam had eddied out and was able to jump out and hang onto the K2 while Emily and I popped our skirts and bailed. Whew! It wasn't so much a dangerous situation as it was one that could have caused Emily to take an unintentional swim - something that I have been able to totally avoid in several years of paddling with her. I've always held the opinion that a kid who gets catatonic in whitewater, if only once, might never get over it and forever give up paddling. I've seen it happen in adults, especially reluctant girl friends (no - not mine!!) too many times to ignore.

Emily regained her composure, "...have another fruit rollup sweetie?" and we proceeded to paddle the rest of the creek with no further problems. We reached the confluence with the BSF about 7:30pm. The BSF looked like the Mississippi in width after traveling the narrow N. White Oak Creek.

The adventure wasn't completely over as we now had to pack up Sam's Westfalia with the K2, open-boat, and 3 K1s plus 7 people and make the drive back to the putin. It had just become dark as we passed the locals cooking hot dogs on sticks at Zenith. No problem - they weren't the Oscar Meyer's we had brought in the Armageddon refrigerator and all was fine back at the van.

We had to go all the way to Wartburg to find a restaurant open that night - thank God for Partner's Pizza! Afterward we slid on over to Frozen Head State Park and showed the kids the campsites they had been conceived in. They were not impressed... It was raining pretty steady at this point and it was here that I dropped Dan's slippery RPM on C6's nose while trying to get it off the Armageddon's racks. OUCH! After careful attention from nurse Karen, a compress made from a frozen bag of spaghetti and a few cold beers Cynthia was feeling a little better about the emerging two black eyes and swollen bridge of her nose.

Except for C6's nose it was a grand adventure completed successfully. There are several morals to my story. First, N. White Oak Creek is probably an awesome run at levels above 3300cfs. I'm thinking 5-6,000cfs on the Leatherwood gage would be a nice minimum. At good levels there will be almost continuous class II-III rapids and the scenery as mentioned is unparalleled. Second; in the summertime, 3:30pm is not too late to put in a 7.5 mile river run. Third; be sure to stay clear of the Armageddon when boats are being loaded and fourth; don't ever lead with your nose...

barry grimes

Paddle the Kids as Best You Can! *cont.from pg. 1*

track. This one's for the kids. We played from noon until 8 pm - paddling 7-plus miles of class 2-3. We scouted Kayaker's Ledge - technically a class 4 - which we all ran on the far right. The big drop was a definite rush. On to Frank Bell's - also a class 4. *Did Frank ever know the French broad?* After a full hour of scouting we decided to take the kids around the island to the left. Bloody gashes would certainly put a dampener on the trip...

Day Two: Pigeon River, TN. Today was a scheduled release and we expected five miles of class 2-3. Several good play spots. *Hmmm. Why are those people taking off a half-mile into the trip? Whoa!! Big Creek is jammin'!! I've never had*



Jade doing the drop at Kayakers Ledge on the French Broad *the chance to run the class 4 creek that dumps into the Pigeon at the dam. Tim - check this out! No - family first.* We all put on and hit the first rapid with a bang. The waves were huge - big water. The river was definitely up. The girls took off at the first bridge and Tim and I continued down river with the boys, not really knowing what lie ahead. I led and Tim ran safety. I only had vague remembrances of the rapids which became useless pieces of info. The holes became huge - many of them offset. We later learned the release was more than double that day - over 3,000 cfs - due to the heavy rains we had been receiving and peak energy demand on the grid. The boys paddled with finesse.

Day Three: Nantahala River, NC. "I hate this river. It's too cold." *Ditto.* But we managed to make a great day of it - playing tag, rafting up and floating the rapids, lunching in the sun. Camped at Tsali - along with the whipperwills which flirted at night (*oohh, whip poor Will, whip poor Will...*) and the grounds crew which promptly mowed and weed-eated at 7:30 each morning.

Day Four: Chattooga River (divides SC to the east and GA to the west). Selected an 8 mile segment of Section 3. Hooked up with John and his son, Delaney, out of Louisville. The day was slow and lazy. The water was low - 1.3' - and warm. The scenery was beautiful. Never saw another paddler. Tim tried out his new Medieval and had a blast on the flat water. *Will I ever be able to do flatwater cartwheels? Am I too old? Quiet! Don't verbalize, even in your head!!*

Day Five, Six, Seven: Ocoee River, TN The first day Becky, Jade and Debbie rafted while the rest of us paddled. "Hey

Greg! You're sagging!" Eli yelled. I looked ahead and Greg's spray skirt was slipping over the hips of his 80 pound frame as he carried his boat to the put-in. This was Greg's first run on the Ocoee. And what a day it was! With the exception of running the sneak on the left side of Broken Nose, he ran everything. The girls ran the lower half of the Ocoee the following day and the boys put on the top. *Wow - Paddling the river with my kids. Life just doesn't get any better. Sure, it took me a couple of days biting my tongue as my thoughts turned to sex every seven seconds. But - I'm strong. I can practice mental sexual abstinence. I just wouldn't want to do it all the time.*

Bruce joined us from Missouri for the final two days of paddling. A week of paddling had boosted the kids skills tremendously. Tim and I were blown away. "If we had another week here, the boys would be showing us the play moves" Tim said. *Maybe - I sure could use some pointers...*

So how did it feel to do a week of rivers with the kids? Well, the memories are still warm. The kids working in teams to drag boats and gear up the steep trail from the Chattooga. Ramen for breakfast and marshmallows at night. Debbie's laughter. Tim's wit. Jade telling me her favorite rapid on the Ocoee is Tablesaw - mine too. Greg and Eli getting enders at Flipper. The kids sleeping under the stars. And rain. Did I mention it rained every day? And we never really felt it. We were a part of it all.



Valerie Vantrese

Eli doing an ender at the Ocoee

Gauley Festival Help Needed!

The 1999 Gauley Festival is Sept. 25, 1999

http://www.awa.org/awa/events/99GF_page1.html and as many of you may be aware this huge event and major money maker for River conservation and access is almost entirely run by volunteer boaters.

As in past years, AW director and BWA member Joe Greiner is calling for and will be organizing the volunteers to help with a variety of jobs. I urge you to volunteer a bit of your time to help this effort and encourage you to contact Joe asap to have the choice of the best times to serve.

For more details on becoming a volunteer at the Gauley Festival please visit:

http://www.awa.org/awa/events/99GF_2.html or contact Joe: phone) 919-847-4704 (feel free to call collect) e-mail: joekayak@worldnet.att.net



Playdini

Stories of a Rodeo Legend - Part 2 The Pudhomme!

I was in French Quebec playing pool and beating a fellow boater from Ontario only because he had more to drink than me. We were in a French tourist motel thankful to be out of the rain. When he got tired of me beating his skinny Canadian ass, we ordered dinner and watched those sweet French waitresses prance around. After an hour of drinking and polite voyeurism, I was wishing that I had paid more attention in French Class during high school and college.

As usual when on a boating trip, the conversation turned to boating. Francoise, the bartender, was giving us free drinks by this time because he loved to hear me talk. He thought I sounded funny. I thought he talked funny so it was OK. When he heard me mention Playdini, he informed me that Playdini had been staying in the motel for a month and would probably be eating soon.

Just then, I walked Playdini smiling like he had just won a rodeo. In fact, he had but he was there only because of a local river that is rarely navigated. The Pudhomme! The locals call it "Le Pud". It is rarely run because it is rarely up. It rises and falls quickly but can stay up longer if the conditions are just right, but when it is up it is a ride that you will remember for a long time. It is a local favorite among female paddlers who are lucky enough to hop on it.

Although, it had been months since I met Playdini on the Upper Tiddy, he acted as if it were just yesterday. He quickly described the Pudhomme as a bonified class A run and said that 12 inches were being predicted. He said that when it rains that hard at midnight the Pud is always up in the morning without fail. I agreed to meet him at 7am for breakfast and had agreed to do the Pud. It would be my first fling with "Le Pud". I felt like a high schooler on a blind date. Would I do all right? Would I know what to do?

The trail to the put-in was not always obvious but worth the effort if you took your time and paid attention to the clues. At times you had to bush whack your way through

tangled vines, briars and the incessant horde of black flies and mosquitoes. It was worth the effort. The trail led to the majestic sight of Viagra Falls.

At first sight it brings out the testosterone in men. You want to jump on the river and ride it until your spent. But at closer look, you begin to feel impotent. You begin to realize that this is a complex rapid. The drop may not be as long as you would like but the necessary steps to get to the bottom safely are many. You just can't blindly hop on and expect good things to happen. You must be patient and go where the river allows. Take what is offered. Only then will you get to that great surfing hole at the bottom.

I ran the rapid 5 times and afterwards smoked a cigarette for the first time since high school. I was in love. I had run the ultimate rapid and didn't want to paddle any further. I was content to just run that rapid for the rest of my life. It invigorated me. I had felt blood rush through my body as I penetrated holes and steered down incredibly tight lines to that play hole at the bottom. I felt like a man when I dropped into that hole! And I wanted more!

Playdini had to smack me to my senses to get me back on the river. He said he didn't need me to do the remaining 12 miles of non-stop class 5/6 white water but did want me to photograph him running Diamond Cutter, Stiff Creek Falls, Johnson Falls, Tallywhacker, Salami Rapids, Dangling Left Dangling Right and Ramrod Chute. I agreed to get back in my boat only because I didn't want to disappoint Playdini again like I did back in Africa when I declined an offer to run the Top Tiddy.

My hands shook while putting on my sprayskirt. Could I paddle another rapid after Viagra Falls? To be continued!

The Author of this story is a world class playboy and white-water enthusiast who wishes to stay anonymous. He has dated Class 6 women from around the world and regularly paddles women – I mean whitewater.

River News & Views

Elkhorn Access

We've passed one more milestone in the process of acquiring permanent, legal access to the Elkhorn Creek. On July 22, the state Trails Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend Knight's Bridge Landing for funding under the Trails program administered by the Department for Local Government (DLG). Ed Council of Canoe Kentucky and President of Elkhorn Trust abstained from the vote since Elkhorn Trust was the requesting agency. The Knight's Bridge application was ranked 5th of 58 by the staff of the DLG. Also approved were 10.5 miles of trails along the Elkhorn in Georgetown-Scott county and trail improvements for Lakeview Park in Franklin county. Altogether, the Board recommended 28 of the 58 projects for funding, for a total of \$636,000, to serve hikers, bikers, ATV's, the handicapped and equestrians.

The next step is for DLG Commissioner Bob Arnold to forward a list of requests to the Federal Highway Administration for their approval. He takes the Trails Advisory Board recommendations seriously, but has the authority to make his own choices. Thank you to the many people who have sent messages to Mr. Arnold supporting the Knight's Bridge project. Barry Grimes sent out a message to other local paddling clubs and we received e-mails from paddlers both in Indiana and Ohio, as well as around Kentucky.

If the Knight's Bridge proposal gets sent to Washington, the next step may well be that they will want an appraisal of the property, which may instigate a renegotiation of the sales contract. Assuming we pass this hurdle, we will then need to generate the cash to complete the purchase. Under somewhat complicated grant-matching procedures, we may need more cash up front than originally anticipated, as it is a reimbursement process, but whatever it takes, if we get past all the other obstacles, we'll find the cash somewhere!! So keep the good thoughts coming, and I'll let you know more as it happens.

Zina

Obed gets more Protection!!

This good news has been forwarded by American Whitewater Director Chuck Estes:

After nearly two years of controversy and delay, Tennessee finally designates Obed Wild and Scenic River an outstanding National resource water.

Overwhelming Public Support Played a Major Role in Final Decision by Tennessee



Don Spangler

Water Quality Control Board today, one of last remaining free-flowing rivers in the southeastern United States was given the highest protection under the Clean Water Act. The highly scenic and undeveloped Obed National Wild and Scenic River in East Tennessee has been designated an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) (or, a Tier-III water) for all purposes except for a possible regional water supply.

The designation will protect this river against any further degradations in water quality, including new pollution sources. The water-supply exception was a compromise between local governments, which opposed the designation, and environmentalists who supported full designation of the river. "We support this compromise because it addresses the local communities' concerns about water supply. In addition, we do not believe the exception will threaten the Obed Wild and Scenic River," said Danielle Droitsch, Associate Regional Director for NPCA's Southeast Regional Office, noting that the multitude of alternative water-supply options for the Cumberland Plateau that have recently been identified, and which provide more economical and environmentally sensitive methods, make it highly unlikely that the Obed watershed would be proposed for a water supply.

The environmental groups cite leadership from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Milton Hamilton as key to the success of designation today. "The Obed Wild and Scenic River richly deserves such protection," noted Dr. Liane Russell, founder and board member of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) who also worked on the issue. Dr. Russell noted the Obed Wild and Scenic River is the only Wild and Scenic River in the state of Tennessee, and only one of nine such river systems in the southeast. The river is visited by well over 200,000 annually for whitewater paddling, hiking, camping, and rock climbing. The national park is home to eight federally listed species including several aquatic species. Hundreds of people from all over the country expressed their support for ONRW designation for the Obed, said Russell.

Many of the current efforts to protect the Obed Wild and Scenic River arose when a dam was proposed upstream of the national park. Threats from environmental groups, including NPCA and TCWP, to file suit over the proposed dam temporarily halted this proposal. In the meantime, the State had proposed to designate the Obed as an Outstanding National Resource Water, but some of the local community wanted first to address long-term water supply problems and opposed such designation. "It became clear to us that there was not going to be any ONRW designation of this river until local concerns were addressed," said Droitsch, who noted that NPCA suggested the compromise of designating the river for all purposes except water supply, a purpose that was likely to be served by alternative options not involving the Obed. "We believe this designation will take a step in the right direction for this national river. It is entirely consistent with the National Park Service's mandate to preserve our national parks unimpaired for future generations."

Chuck Estes

National Paddling Film Festival 2000 update

Have you ever had the feeling in a dream of "how did I get here, what's going on?" Well, that's sort of how I feel right now, trying as a relative newcomer to keep the NPFF on track after the "retirement" of 10 year festival-master Barry Grimes. But though officially retired, Barry is staying on as an active consultant, and rest assured he's standing by with reminders and suggestions of what needs to be done.



event at the year 2000 NPFF. If you have suggestions as to what would interest you, please contact me.

We have practically outgrown the current Festival site at the UK Health Sciences Learning Center and are looking for a bigger venue which can accommodate the net-

worked video services we require. In the meantime, we will move the silent auction to the 5th floor, and open up the small theater as a second quiet theater. The logistics of the final live part of the auction are still being worked out, but will probably involve some real-time video or digital imagery of some of the merchandise. The audience will be in the big theater, so we don't have to crowd in quite so tightly.

People

The NPFF is staffed and run by Bluegrass Wildwater Association member volunteers. Team members include Zog Aitken who has taken on multiple roles, including organizing and procuring prizes for the famous NPFF silent auction, getting T-shirts designed and ordered, and coordinating the Road Show aspect of the Film Festival. Rich Lewis is our esteemed and well-organized treasurer, while Prince Vittitow is handling video sales. Don Spangler is providing print and graphic support for advertisements and promotional materials, and Valerie Vantreesee is heading up the Publicity campaign with some assistance from Amy Shipman. Todd McCarty will again handle the still image competition, and David Reed has graciously agreed to be in charge of lunch. Ben Askren is coordinating the Safety Poster Contest, and Kathy Cole, the BWA webster, has taken on the NPFF web site as well. The inimitable Mike Molnar is continuing as Party coordinator.

Positions which still need to be filled include Reception Desk and Ticket Sales, Concessions, Festival Site Clean-up (though we have one volunteer for clean-up duty already), Judges Coordinator, Scoring, and Awards. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please call me. Or nominate a friend....

Events

The NPFF is continuing to adapt and reinvent itself to remain exciting and interesting. We are attempting to better publicize the Safety Poster contest by contacting 4-H groups. We will be auctioning off at least one big-ticket item on-line for those who can't make it to the site. We will also experiment with an on-line vote for best image, probably on a "test" basis this first year. Also, since the film making seminar with John Davis was so successful last year, we will try to have another seminar or similar

River Karma

Please join the staff of the NPFF and build up a positive reservoir of good River Karma. At the very least, mark your calendar for February 25 and 26 and plan to attend the free Friday night showing of last year's winners, and the all day Saturday showing of this year's contenders. All the proceeds go to organizations working on conservation and river access issues on behalf of paddlers everywhere. Hell, even the coordinator doesn't get in free -- it's an all-volunteer effort to raise funds for the rivers, to protect and keep open those streams we love to play in.

For more information check the NPFF website www.surf-bwa.org/npff which should be updated in August sometime, or contact Zina Merkin, NPFF 2000 coordinator 606-268-2508; zmerkin@ca.uky.edu or 120 Victory Ave, Lexington, KY 40502

Zina Merkin

To Fund, or not to Fund, that is the question

There has been an ongoing debate about whether the National Paddling Film Festival should be re-born every year from the BWA coffers, or whether it should retain a sum to capitalize its yearly fund raising efforts. There are strong and meritorious arguments on both sides. I recently asked the membership of the BWA to write to me with their opinions, so I could make a point by point listing of the pros and cons of an annual BWA appropriation or donation to the NPFF. I was surprised by how few actual-

ly sent notes to me -- I had only about a dozen responses, each of which of course made several points. I will list each point only once, however, and leave it to you to decide the importance and merit of each point. At the end, clearly marked **Editorial**, I will render my own personal opinion and proposal. This privilege comes from taking on the job of NPFF coordinator, and because I took the time to write this article. Feel free to skip it.

The ISSUE: The NPFF should continue to take its treasury to zero every year and should be re-capitalized each year through a donation by the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, typically of \$1,000 total (though disbursed in 2 or 3 payments).

CON:

- The \$1,000 that the NPFF has historically required as start-up money represented around 10% of the total collected at the 1999 festival. Contribution of 90% of funds collected is well in excess of the norm for environmentally concerned organizations.
- I do not believe that the folks who come to the film festival would be outraged by the fact that the festival pays its debts before donating the proceeds, or holds back \$1,000 for the expenses to organize and publicize the next year's event. This does not constitute making a profit.
- The \$1,000 that the BWA saves can be used for other club events such as subsidizing river rescue clinics, CPR/First Aid clinics, a trailer, instructor certification, equipment, etc.
- The NPFF is operated and supported by the BWA through the donation of our labors, not by the donation of money. Our time is a sufficient show of commitment and support.
- The donation was a good idea when the Festival started, to ensure the success of the NPFF. It's not necessary now that the NPFF is an established event with more reliable and predictable revenue.
- As other separate events become stable, they should also be self-funding.
- If events need advance money they could sell tickets in advance or have a fund raising party.
- I think it would be wise to hold money back so the NPFF won't have to formally request money from the BWA. That way the NPFF won't have to struggle for funds if the BWA is a little short at the time funds are needed.

PRO:

- I believe we gave the NPFF \$1000 last year, and with a lot of wonderful people working together, we were able to raise \$9000 toward river conservation. With this in mind, I like the fact the money I helped raise through helping at

the clinic and the roll sessions was behind these proceeds. Most paddling clubs out there, even those with ten times the number of members and money, are nowhere close to the generous giving record of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

- The NPFF and BWA are non-profit entities. In my mind "non-profit" means to give away all of the money after expenses. To consider keeping anything above a minimal treasury balance is in direct opposition to this concept.
- The BWA has already voted to make the NPFF a zero balance entity.
- Accumulated wealth in a "non-profit" entity creates discord and disharmony.
- Accumulated wealth creates institutions, it creates a bureaucracy which acts to perpetuate itself, with decisions made to benefit the organization rather than the members of the organization or the purpose of the organization.
- I like the fact that the NPFF & the BWA are somewhat synonymous. We are all members in order to give to worthy environmental causes so let's continue do so.
- If the BWA no longer funds the NPFF this event may eventually become separated and beyond the control of the BWA.

To Fund or Not Fund Continued.

- Why should the NPFF be the only self funding event -- why not the Russell Fork, the clinic or the pool rolling sessions?

- The BWA/NPFF has always been wealthy in creative, energetic people unconcerned about money except in how it may be accumulated to work for the Rivers. Use of club money for group equipment or clinics is unnecessary for the continuing existence of the club.

- The NPFF has consistently given money to respectable river organizations and, to my knowledge, there has NEVER been a concern raised that it gave money to inappropriate beneficiaries. The money consistently goes to the most worthy organizations.

- If we have the chance to contribute to the Elkhorn Access this year, it would be a shame to hold back some of that money, which is needed right now, for next year's expenses.

YES, BUT and NO, BUT:

- Having said that the BWA has other uses for the money it has been giving to the NPFF, the BWA needs to suggest ways to use that money or it should be given away.

- If some other worthy cause comes up at the same time the NPFF needs funds, the BWA can support the other cause. If the BWA wants to donate funds to the NPFF anyway, that would still be O.K.--it would just mean more profit to give towards river conservation. Otherwise, the BWA can donate towards other projects that REALLY need the money.

- Only take in enough money to pay for the newsletter and listserv. Whatever is left over gets refunded back to the members. Then everyone can fund their own personal agendas in their own way. We can spend our time telling stories and paddling. That is what we enjoy the most.

Editorial:

I agree with many statements on both sides of the question. Part of the answer depends on one's definition of the purpose of the BWA, whether it exists as a purely social organization or whether it has goals beyond individual and group merriment. I think the majority of the club would agree that conservation is important to us, and river access is necessary even for the completely hedonistic purposes of the club. The question of how much of our resources are given to conservation organizations and how much to support club members' paddling is a delicate one. The answer to this varies as the club's membership and needs, and the needs of the rivers, change. And of course, our ability to fund things will change as membership grows or falls and events make or lose money.

My personal philosophy is to follow the Middle Way. As NPFF coordinator for this year, I would like to not have to face the stress of asking for the money in order to make sure we can do our promotional mailings. It would be good to have some capital base on which to depend. As a BWA member, I am proud of how much we donate to conservation. But I also would like to see some money spent on things for the membership. I don't consider that selfish, it's part of the reason to be in a club rather than an unaffiliated paddler. I especially hope that we support safety training for our members, with the caveat that those members who are subsidized for training donate their time and expertise to either support trips or carry on in-club safety training. But I digress.

I think that fundamentally, the BWA support of the festival with time and energy is far more important than the financial support, though the financial support can be seen as an early and visible sign that yes, those volunteers will in fact be there in February when we need them. But I also think it is important for the BWA to continue to fund conservation and access on a generous level -- it's good karma for the club and the people, and we feel good about it. It gives us the right to feel outraged or indignant about assaults on river access or water quality. I also think we should continue the tradition of being a fun group, and in addition to the money raised for the rivers, the NPFF is a fun day with our friends, with great videos, wonderful gear bargains and a cool party after. That's very BWA, don't you think?! So it accomplishes two goals in one, we've donated \$1000 to river conservation and we've had a day and a half long event which is lots of fun.

This funding question is one for which a final solution may not be possible. As a river yearly shifts its course a little and we have to be prepared to adjust, so a club's needs and desires will shift according to the storms of the season. However, I would like to suggest that the BWA donate \$500 every year, to keep it in the Major Sponsor category. If the NPFF needs more money than that, let the BWA loan the NPFF money to be repaid in March or April or whenever the books are to be closed out. If the BWA is feeling flush at that point and wants to forgive the debt and donate that money to conservation, let the whole BWA designate what organization will get that money. If the BWA has other projects requiring that money, let it at that point be repaid as an expense of the Festival. I also think it would be prudent for the NPFF to keep at least \$500 back from the proceeds to fund postage and printing as may be necessary in the first few months of organizing the next year's festival, in case video sales or road show receipts are insufficient for these expenses. Upon examining the books, it's clear that volunteers of the NPFF are fronting the money personally, in some cases in large amounts, and this seems somewhat unfair. That's my two cents worth folks. Now let the debate rage on.

Zina Merkin

Thanks to the "Old Guy".

So I'm floating down the BSF the other day and I got to thinking, (not one of my strengths). I really want to say thanks to all the old guys in this sport. I would go out on a limb and thank some individually but I'm afraid I'd forget someone and start an e-mail war on the list serve. Anyway here I am floating down the river in a nine foot long boat and thinking it's a little too long when it hits me that THEY opened up this sport in boats 12 and 13 feet long.

This makes me feel silly thinking my boats too long for such and such creek. We all owe a lot to THEM. THEY fought the early wars of access, gear development, boat design, and all the crap it takes to stay with boating for the long haul. Think about what THEY had to do to go boating. There wasn't any miracle fabrics to stay warm. No fancy dry tops, dry suits, poly pro, fleece, stay dry, stay warm, dry fu fu stuff like we have today. These guys went out on the cold days and boated anyway. OK so a few bit the dust from hypothermia but they kept going out.

Now granted some of THEM, OK maybe most of them, drank a lot and maybe THEY didn't know THEY were boating, but THEY still paved the way for the rest of us. THEY paddled boats that looked like pencils sharpened on both ends made out of stuff called fiberglass. THEY even paddled big long canoes made of birch bark and canvas and, oh, maybe I'm getting carried away. There is a bunch I'm sure I've been thinking that will not get into print, and some real heart felt stuff that I feel but didn't down on paper or keyboard or whatever, but Anyway I would like to take a moment to say thank you to each and every one of you guys and gals who loved white water enough to take the risks, brave the elements, and stick with the sport long enough, so that I can come along, years later and enjoy the benefits of a truly wonderful sport with a truly wonderful group of people.

I ask the rest of you to thank an old fart when you see one and tell THEM just how much of an impact THEY have had on our lives. OK I'm done.

Dave Allnutt

Dammed if we do..... Piped if we don't!

OK, now I know why everyone wants to save me on the rivers. So now I can repay you with enlightenment concerning the plight of our water supply. At times within the last 10 years I have been heavily involved in calculating numbers, reviewing other's numbers, writing summary reports, and most recently (since 1995) just sitting on the sidelines for an occasional question while the "newer" minds tackle this problem. Much has been written under contract (big bucks) and you can choose to ignore it, but these documents are the "facts" rather than the rumors or advertisements (from our local water company). Below is my individual assessment of the "facts" for your consideration.

FIRST: Dams 9 and above (and the pools they create) are our major source of water, particularly dam 9. Our withdrawal is from pool 9 so if dam 9 fails we lose the pool and our water supply. THEREFORE, our primary focus

should be in rebuilding 9, then working on 10 and above. These dams were built in the 1800's and early 1900's and are in need of repair. In the process of repair, it would be very cost efficient to add height to the dams to store additional water. It has been calculated that collapsible crest gates of ~ 4 ft height above the present tops of dams 9 and 10 and release valves (already installed in dams 10,11,12, and 13) would give us enough water until the year 2050 and meet the 1930 drought conditions. The crest gates would be raised only in summer to store water which would stay within the channel for the most part, i.e., not flood the flood plain and kill vegetation.

Another alternative would be to permanently raise dam 9 an additional 5 ft over the present height while rebuilding it. This would produce some minor flooding and readjustment on the flood plain but most likely insignificant over a five-year period (Mother Nature is pretty good at healing). I only mention the section of the region from dam 9 upwards, but similar needs and facilities (release valves) are in place in the dams down to Frankfort. Therefore the population centers would be served.

SECOND: Unfortunately, conservation measures (pricing and "normal" water-use reduction) will not have a significant impact--so forget it!

THIRD: The pipeline (23 mgd) would only provide 33% of our need in normal use and perhaps a lower percent in drought conditions if water use goes up as customers try to protect their property values by watering greenery (or brownery in the drought case). Construction of the pipeline will not, therefore, protect our major source of water supply, namely the dams. The pipeline will not go along the I-64 easement, but cut across the land. Its construction cost (blasting through bedrock most of the way) will be significant, and it will have at least a temporary effect on ecosystems just like minor flooding of the Ky River flood plain.

FOURTH: Off-stream storage i.e., tributaries (Red River, etc) could provide the needed storage for a drought, but the environmental concerns would most likely skuttle them before the first brick was laid.

These are my basic thoughts derived from my own work and reading many consulting reports. A good summary of the technical issues can be found in a 1996 publication entitled "Kentucky River Basin Water Supply Assessment Study; Executive Summary" by L. Ormsbee, prepared for the Kentucky River Authority by the KY Water Resources Research Institute, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky 40506-0107; 606-257-1832. This is a summary of the Harza Report and, I think, nine other technical reports. Copies can be found in most public libraries or can be purchased from the Water Resources Research Institute.
J.Dinger

Viking Safety River Clinic

Safety Clinic/River rescue basics, led by ACA certified instructors. Costs \$70. August 28th, I'm not sure where. For info or to sign up, call Dave Ackerman 502-267-0369

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Please consider adding 5.00 to your dues to help develop Elkhorn Access for BWA Members!

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For more information go to page 2

New Meeting Location Soon!

For directions and information Call Club Officer or
go to: http://www.surfbwa.org/html/meet_eat.html Rd., Lexington



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