

BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Sept/Oct 2014

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Wild & Scenic for a Perfect Weekend!

Brandon Jett



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Looking Ahead

Coming BWA Meetings
Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

BWA Monthly Meeting Meet & Eat Meeting at Roosters

124 Marketplace Dr
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 449-7737

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/roosters-lexington>

Winter Roll Sessions are Just Around the Corner

The time is fast approaching for the winter roll sessions. They will begin this year in January so watch the forum for details and make plans to come out and get under your boat! The best way to develop boating skill is to start with a solid foundation and that means work on that roll. If you are already a solid boater then come out and help teach and inspire new boaters in the club. The BWA roll sessions do a lot to help our club refuel with new boater energy so make plans to come out and have some fun in the pool. You can roll indoors in January and then skip rolling on the river until spring!

For more information on Club Meetings
& Activities always check the
online Calendar.

<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/?f=calendar>

The BWA wishes to thank Canoe
Kentucky for it's support.

We urge you to patronize them
for
your outdoor needs.



Bowlines is the Newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater
Association, POB 4231, Lexington Ky, 40504

Club Officers 2014-2015

President	Clay Warren	859-326-0602
Vice-President	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225
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Program	Adalessa Harbour	859-230-1316
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Peter Stutts	859-507-3149
Film Festival Coordinator	John Mello	859-327-6092
Russell Fork River Festival Coordinator	Steve Ruth	606-754-4348
Equipment Coordinator	KC Frankenstein	859-420-1514
At-Large Member	Katherine Halloran	502-608-6240
Membership Coordinator	Brandy Jones	859-312-8640
Past President	Emily Grimes	

Join in on the Fun!

Join the BWA! BWA Membership \$20/individual; \$25/Family year entitles you to receive the newsletter, 10% discounts at many local and out of state outfitter shops, use of club equipment, discount at pool rolling sessions, a listing in the BWA Handbook, a stream gauge guide, and web site with a forum for member's messages & a parking pass for the Elkhorn.

Meetings are held at 7:30, the second Tuesday of each month at location announced on our website: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>

Submission of newsletter articles can be on CD (Mac or PC). Pictures can be digital or ready to be scanned. Please include stamped envelope for return. Preferred method: Files can also be e-mailed to: DonSpang@aol.com



Enjoy this issue of Bowlines?

Check out Bowlines Online Archive with many
great issues going back to 1998!

Issue Archive:

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines_arcN.html

A must read for all members, our 30th Anniversary issue:

http://www.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf



<http://www.canoeky.com/>



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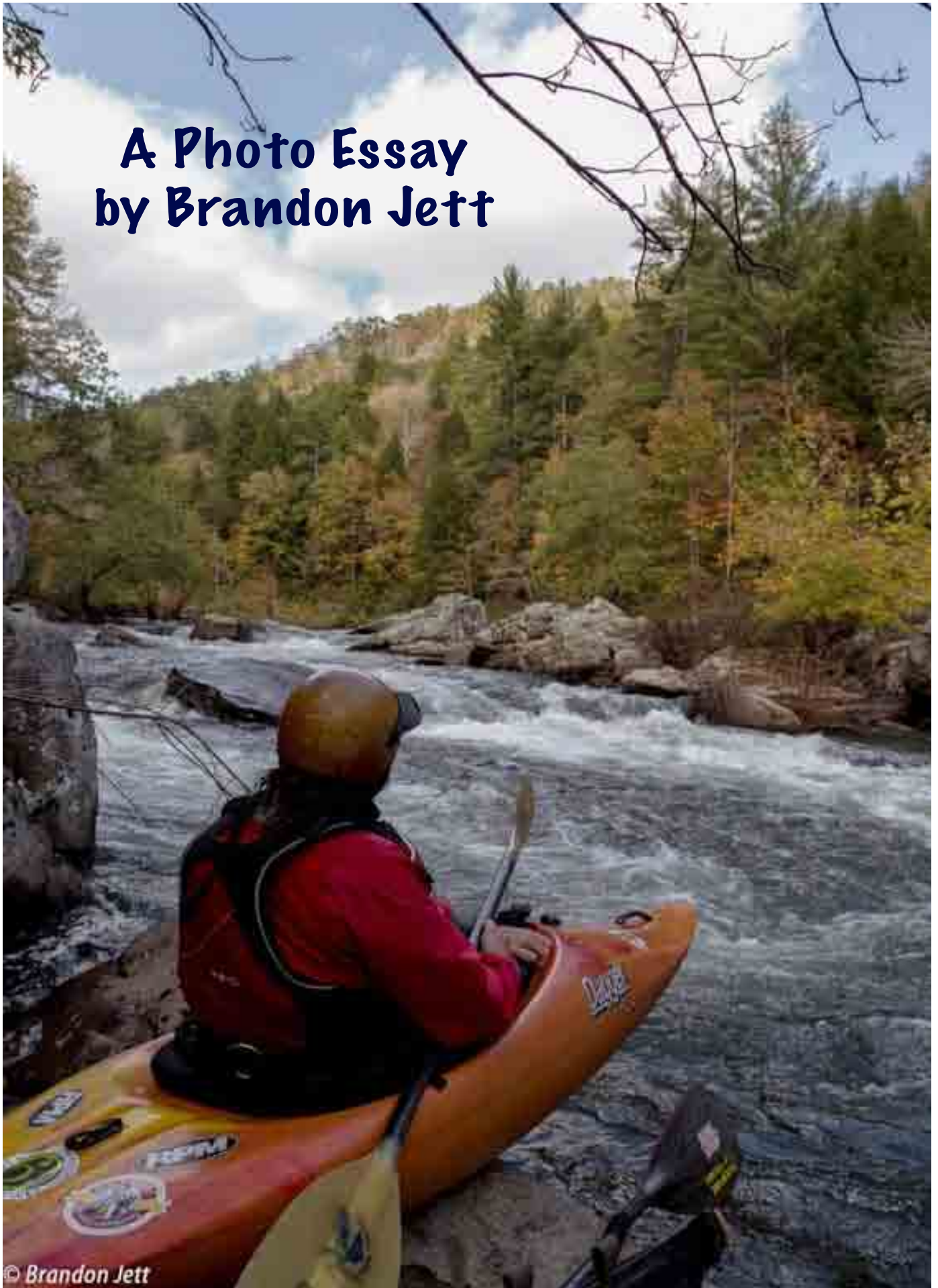
"In southeast boating circles, October means Gauley season has wrapped up and its time for weekend release on the beautiful and remote Russell Fork River on the KY/VA border.

But his year has seen an unusually wet fall, and rivers and creeks that rarely have enough water to run in October like free-flowing the classics in the Smokies and on the Cumberland Plateau in TN are primed.

The weekend of October 18th saw what seemed like half of the paddlers in the state of KY descend on the Obed watershed, taking over the Rock Creek CG near Wartburg, TN and enjoying some of the most beautiful whitewater and scenery in the southeast.

Everyone lined up for Clear Creek, Jett Bridge to Nemo. Lots of first timers, lots more smiles, great weather and some nice fall color added to the perfect weekend. Fall is fading fast but the winter boating season is almost here, more rains will come, and the river runners will rejoice."

A Photo Essay by Brandon Jett

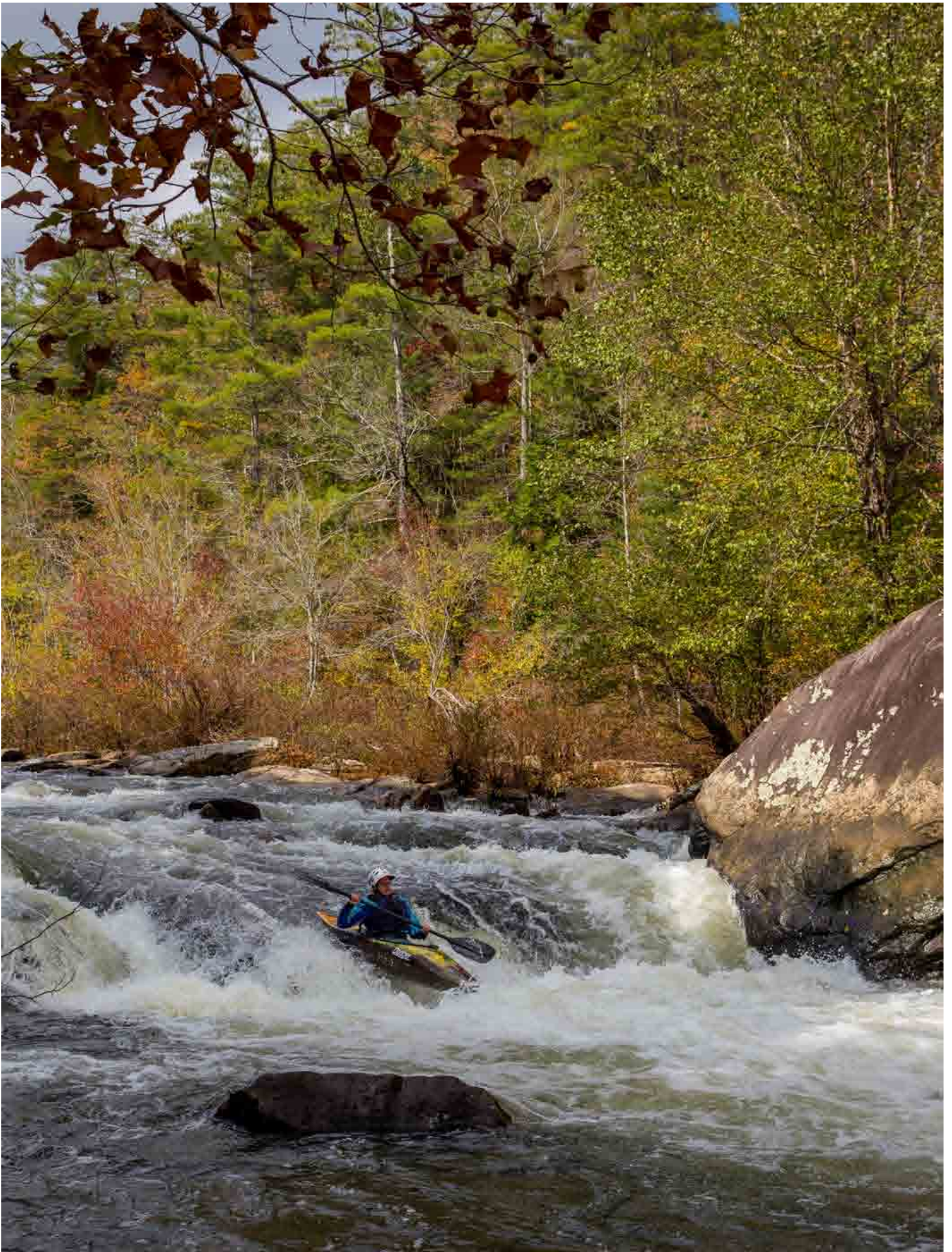


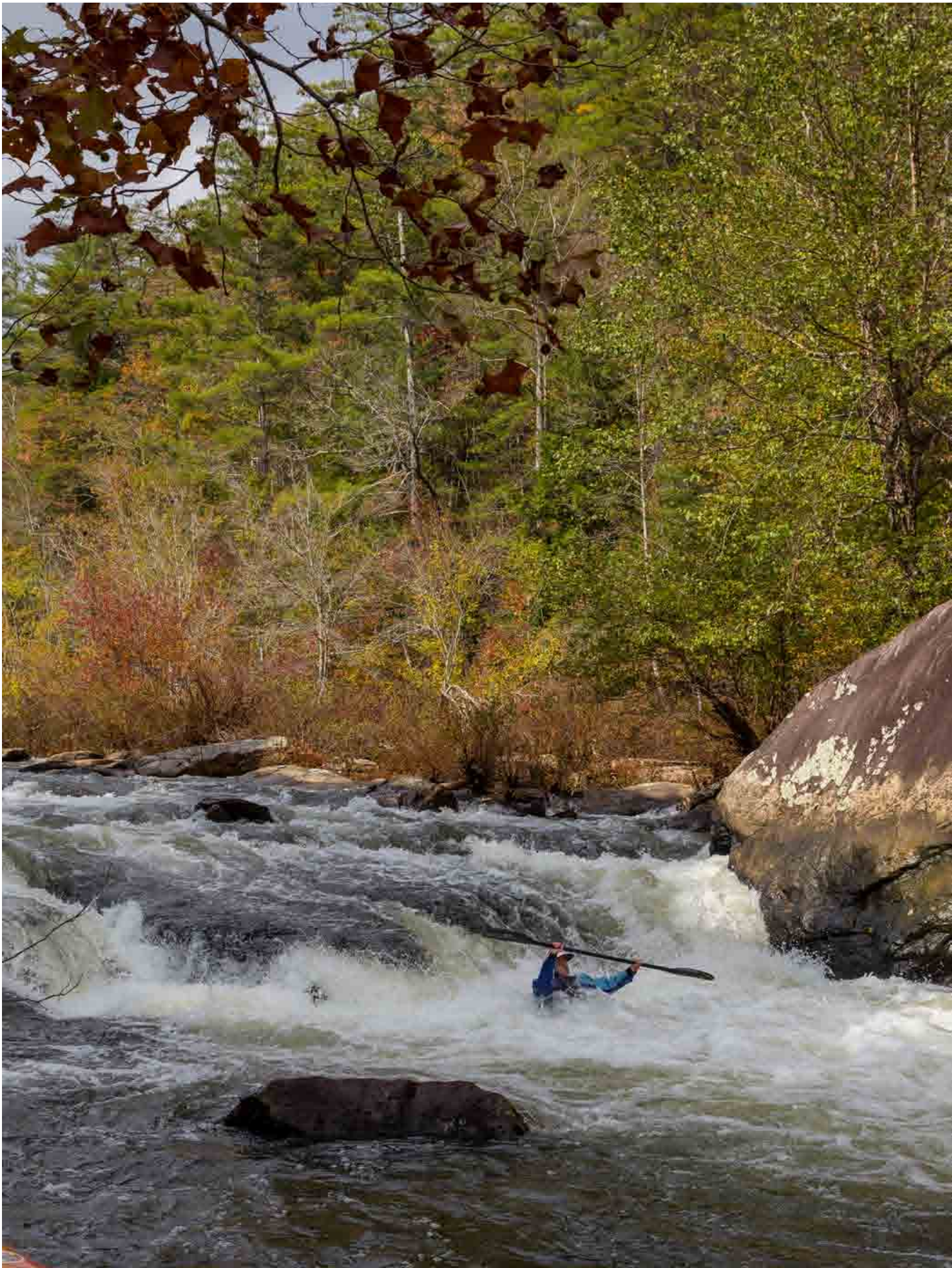




Brandon Jett



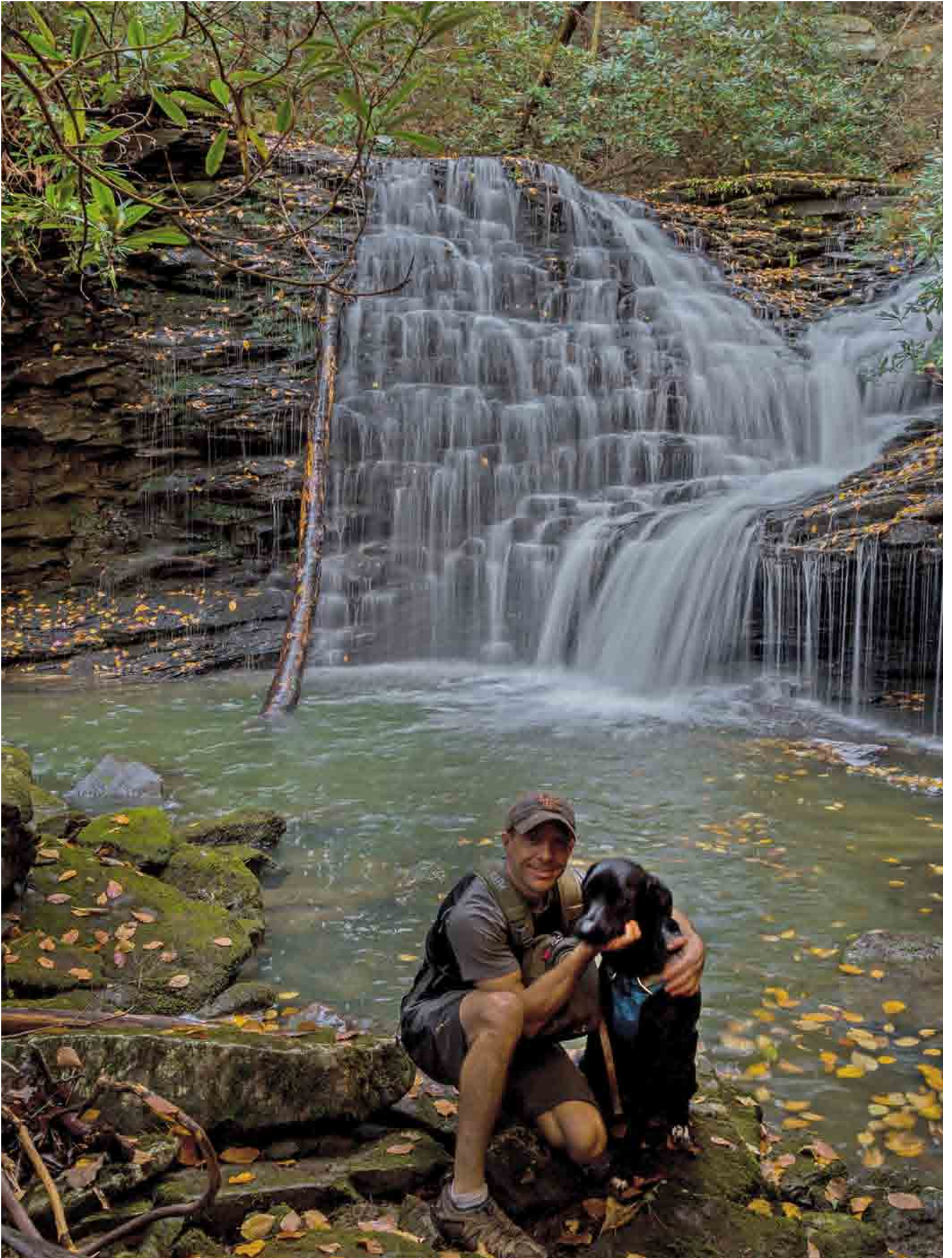








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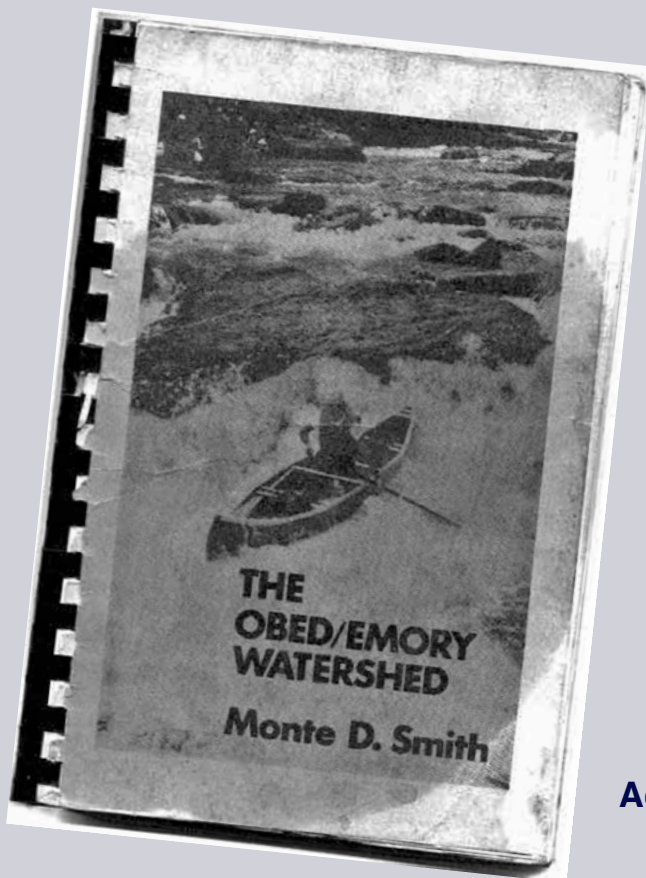


Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...

more of our proud
BWA legacy that is
worth remembering!



The Best River Guide Book Ever!



From the March/April 2004 issue of Bowlines

And it just happens
to be about
the BWA's
Favorite River System!

The Obed/Emory

Accurate, Informative And Entertaining!

Don Spangler

In the seventies when the first BWA members in Lexington were getting serious about paddling whitewater, river running as well as whitewater boats/gear experience/knowledge was very limited. We often solved the lack of a boat to paddle whitewater with by making our own boats out of fiber glass. Gear such as spray skirts, paddle jackets and throw ropes we also often made ourselves. In cold weather we wore a lot of wool cloth-

ing as polypro was still something in the future. River knowledge was obtained either by word of mouth or by getting topo maps out and determining the gradient and possible put-in and take-out spots and then going out to explore the streams that appeared to be the most likely candidate for good whitewater.

Access to gage readings was almost impossible so we waited till it was raining to get together to explore a creek or river system. If the stream was local that was easy, but if it was in another state it was difficult to determine if it was raining there. You might get a glimpse of a weather map or mention of rain in Tennessee or West Virginia on the Eleven O'Clock News, but more than likely the forecast would only show you from central Kentucky up into Ohio. (And we all know there is not any good whitewater streams you want to paddle in Ohio!) So our best source of weather information was to call a restaurant or other willing source near the stream we wanted to paddle and ask them if it was raining and if so, how heavy and how long it rained. Thus, weekend river trips were often a series of surprises and could mean scraping down a less than exciting section of river or spending a day on the river cringing with trepidation about surviving to get to the takeout. An old friend told me recently that "back then it was not a river trip most of the time, it was an adventure trip. We often did not know anything till we got there including how to survive and get back out of there".

Then in the late seventies that began to change. Those who had explored whitewater paddling streams had enough experience to write about it. But some of the early books were inconsistent in how they described rivers and rated them. Maps were primitive and often hand drawn. Dirt roads were not on highway maps so connecting to the dirt road in the sketch to the highway shown on the printed map was often difficult. Water level information was often based on a gage that was painted on the side of a bridge or rock, not something you could check from 200 miles away.

Finally in 1980 a book ap-

pear that began to change all of that: *The Obed/Emory Watershed, A detailed Guide to 18 Whitewater Canoeing Trips*. (Back then canoers were a lot more common than kayakers) Written by Monte D. Smith it described itself as a "detailed and accurate guide". Monte, a college professor at George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University is characterized in real life as a "river rat and campfire raconteur" whose favorite color was "clear water".

The Guide was not slick or expensive. It was spiral bound and the course paper allowed the reader a less than sharp and detailed view of the photos. But to us paddlers it was a jewel! It gave us a "detailed guide to 142 miles of canoe trails" and "some of the most spectacular riverine country in the southeastern U.S."

We were familiar with some of the creeks in the Obed-Emory, but now we were privy to all kinds of information that we could use to explore and enjoy it like never before. There were flow rates by month of year, we knew how many cfs it took to be able to run Jett to Lily, Emory Canyon, Crab Orchard, Crooked Fork and all of the eighteen runs described. And very important, with Monte's book, we only needed one gage reading to know what runs were possible: the Oakdale gage.

Not only that, each run was described in terms we

TRIP #	NAME	MILES	GRADIENT		RAPIDS		AWA POINTS	SUGGESTED MINIMUM SKILL LEVEL	RECOMMENDED CFS RANGE
			AVE	MAX	AVE	MAX			
1	Lower Island Creek ¹	2	110	110	IV	V	35	Expert	5000+
2	Crooked Fork Creek ¹	8	67	180	III	VI	33	Expert	3500+
3	Daddy's Creek Canyon	6.5	46	80	III	IV+	31	Expert	1000-2400
4	Crab Orchard Creek ¹	13.5	45	80	III	IV	28	Advanced	6000-12000
5	Obed (DBT to Nemo) ²	12	26	40	III	IV	27	Advanced	700-3500
6	Clear Creek (Jett to Nemo) ³	10.5	27	60	III	IV	26	Advanced	800-3500
7	Obed (Gould's Bend)	10	30	80	III	V	25	Advanced	2500-7500
8	Emory Headwaters	6.5	55	100	II	III	24	Expert	10000+
9	Obed (Adams Bd to Potters Fd)	4	13	40	II	IV	20	Advanced	1500-3500
10	Obed (Potters Fd to OBJ)	12	20	40	II	III	18	Intermediate	1200-3500
11	Emory River Canyon	7	22	47	II	III	15	Intermediate	2500-6000
12	Clear Creek (US127 to Waltman) ²⁰	17	40	40	II	III	14	Novice/Int	1500-6000
13	Daddy's Ck (Cen to Antioch)	9	10	20	II	II+	13	Novice/Int	1000-3500
14	Emory (Nemo to Oakdale)	9.5	8	20	I+	III	12	Novice	300-2000
15	Upper Daddy's Creek	7	16	35	I	II	12	Novice	2500-17000
16	Clear Ck (Waltman to Jett) ⁴	4.5	16	20	I	II	11	Novice	800-4000
17	White Ck (Twin Bd to Waltman)	7	20	35	I	II	10	Novice	2000-7000
18	Daddy's Ck (US70 to Center)	4	10	18	I	II-	7	Nov/Begin	1000-4000

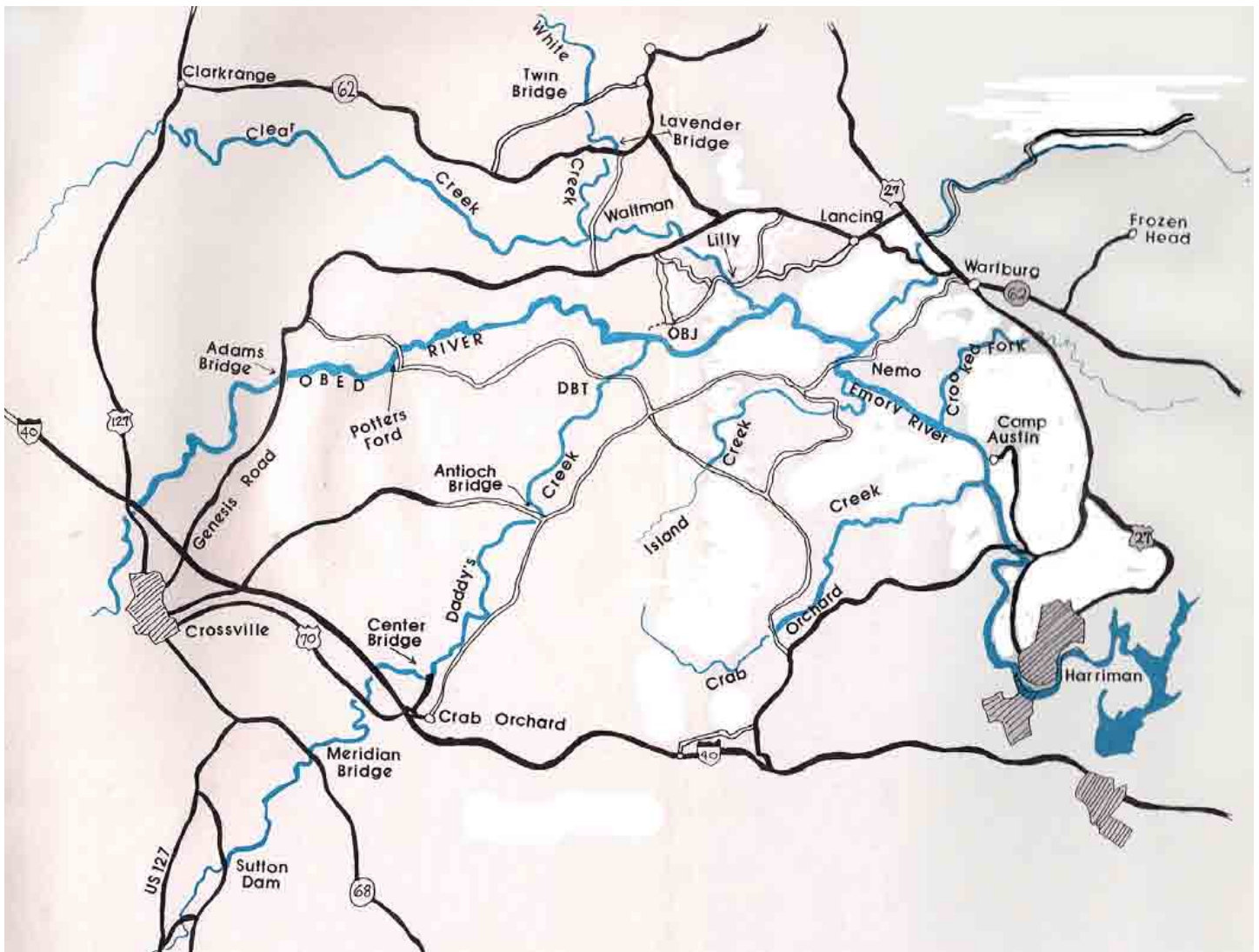
¹Take out is on the Emory River. Gradient figures do not include the Emory mileage.

²Put in is on Daddy's Creek and take out is on the Emory River.

³Take out is on the Emory River.

⁴The Waltman Bridge to Jett Bridge trip is often extended 2 1/2 miles downstream to Lilly Bridge, adding some very pleasant Class II(III) water. Addition of these miles increases the average gradient to 20 ft/mi and the maximum to 35 ft/mi. The prudent maximum cfs is 3000.

Table 3: Eighteen Obed/Emory Canoe Trips, Listed in Order of Descending Overall Difficulty.



could understand: it had descriptions like *"more dangerous undercuts per mile"*. There is a *"one mile section with a gradient of almost 200 feet"*. This is the *"most delightful trip in the watershed" 80% is whitewater*, *"continuous whitewater!"*. However, one great thing about Monte's book is that it did not over do the information and spoil the anticipation of running a new river. It gave you some descriptions of the rapids like: *"The biggest drop is just above this rockhouse rapid, and from upstream looks like a sheer drop of 12 feet. There is however a steep slide which permits the declivity to be negotiated in open canoes. The left side of this rapid/slide/waterfall is exceedingly dangerous because the water on that side is forcefully jammed into a narrow horizontal crevice. Avoid."*

But generally the description does not go into a very detailed description on how to run the rapid and it certainly did not provide a map of the rapid with arrows showing how to run it. It was assumed that part of river paddling was to be able to read whitewater and determine the best route. While Monte would point out a dangerous rapid or even danger in a rapid he did not

presume to rob you of the experience of discovering how to run the river by giving you river maps as is so common a practice today.

But the most wonderful part of this book was the stories with each run that Monte relates based on the trips that he and his friends took exploring the river system. There are not the stories of some "super" paddler describing his spectacular run of a rapid or waterfall. They are stories often of failures and difficulties told in a honest and humorous manner. They are stories of the common average Joe Paddler. Reading the stories you can see yourself and your friends in the same situation doing or saying something similar to what is happening in the story. His stories were like campfire tales that could be retold and savored time after time. We would read them on the way to the river and on the way back, comparing your experiences to the stories in the book.

Here is just a few paragraphs of part of a story about a Obed trip thru a section that included the Gould's Bend section with 80 ft/mi. gradient shortly after some heavy

rains:

“A gradually deepening gorge begins one mile after the put-in. At the bottom of Gould's Bend the river is almost 300 feet below the canyon rims.

As one enters the gorge there are several nice Class II rapids. Some of these Class IIIs may edge into the troublesome category at higher water. One rapid in particular is of this caliber. It was during a TSRA White-water Camp that Norman "Foolishcats" Knight got to know it well. Whitewater Camp that year was proceeded by heavy rains. Water at the Gould's Bend put in was high and rising when Norman's group put in, but they thought it impossible to have too much water on this uppermost Obed run.

About 30 minutes and 2 1/2 miles later the group began to appreciate how much the river was up when they saw a tree standing in three feet of water in a rapid. Not wishing to cause the tree any disturbance Norman skirted far left. Too far left as it turned out. His boat caught on a rock which he had not noticed, pivoted on the rock and blocked the main channel. Neither Norman nor his boat were in any jeopardy, but they were blocking the main channel. All the boats behind Norman were forced to drive into a small eddy to avoid a collision. Norman stepped from his canoe onto a rock which was about six inches above water level, pivoted his boat and shoved it back into the water, got back into the canoe and continued through the rest of the small rapid.

The boats in the upstream eddy peeled off one by one, but "Wild" Bill Brownlee was contemplating the iconoclastic integrity of the elderly William Coleridge and in the process of peeling off his canoe was caught

by the powerful cross currents and swept directly into the tree which Norman had so assiduously avoided. The canoe broached, overturned and pinned securely. As the canoe overturned, Wild Bill adroitly grabbed the tree and managed to climb up the trunk via his partially submerged boat. With difficulty the group eddied below the rapid and scurried up the bank. Wild Bill tenaciously continued his stranglehold on the tree, realizing now that he was the only person who had a chance of getting a rope on the boat.



The group got a rope to Wild Bill and after several minutes he managed to locate one of his canoe painters in the turbulent water swirling over where his boat was a few minutes before. The full impact of how fast the water was rising registered heavily on Foolish Norman when he decided to check the level at the rock onto which he had stepped 15 minutes earlier in order to free his boat. The rock was totally submerged. It was no longer even visible! Norman Foolishcats realized that the water was rising alarmingly, but said nothing because he did not wish to alarm the other group mem-

bers. (When notes were compared at the end of the trip it was discovered that everybody except Eugene (Bo) Rocker was fully aware from the beginning that the water was climbing fast, but nobody said anything out of a concern for unduly alarming anyone else.)

Wild Bill connected the painter to the throw rope, and the group pulled with all they had. They pulled for what seemed an interminable time from every

conceivable angle without result. Finally it was obvious to all that the stream was flooding because in his effort to stay above water Wild Bill began to reach the top of the tree trunk. (The clue that everybody knew how fast the river was rising was Bo Rocker shouting: "The tree is sinking! The tree is sinking!")

The group also realized that they had time for only one more effort before they would have to turn their attention to safely removing Wild Bill from that tree. Finally it occurred to one of the miscreants to run the rope over a limb and then down to his boat, thereby exerting force on the canoe from straight overhead. It worked!!! The boat popped free. It was hauled to shore and then the same fate was arranged for Wild Bill.

Wild Bill had managed to hang in that tree for almost an hour. The group knew that he was exhausted, and delegated Norman "Foolishcats" Knight to determine his physical and mental fitness for continuing downstream. The Fool approached the wild man and said, "Bill, I have the impression that you are OK, but I would like to hear your expression about that." To which inquiry Wild Bill explained patiently that "expressionism" was a literary movement which began in Germany before the first World War, and was a successor to "impressionism", a movement deriving from the theory and practice of Monet, Degas, Renoir, and other French painters in the later 19th century who undertook to represent objects as they appear to the artist in a particular moment and mood from a particular vantage point, instead of duplicating exactly their physical properties.

Convinced of his physical well-being, other members of the group began to adjust the profile of Wild Bill's boat with a couple of convenient boulders, while listening appreciatively to Wild Bill's improvised diatribe on the significance of iambic pentameter in the decline of British influence in 19th century India. When Wild Bill completed his discourse the group thanked him profusely and then turned their attention to getting off the flood-gorged Obed River. Several possible courses of action were considered, including climbing out over the gorge wall and appealing to TVA to channelize the river. Finally they agreed to continue down the river, but slowly and cautiously, scouting every major rapid, portaging all that were menacing, and sending Mad Eugene Rocker downstream first to look for eddies."

That was just the start of a day of agony & mishap for the group, the tale continues for several pages.

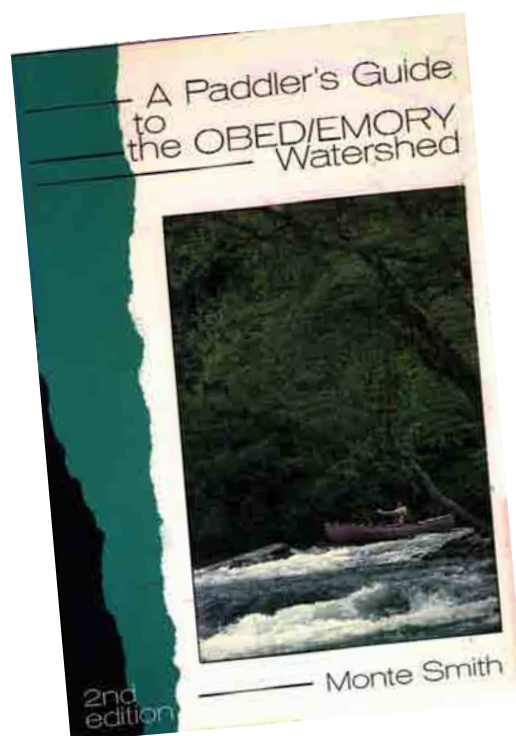
Stories like that were told throughout the books along

with descriptions of 18 river trips proved that the author was a "real" boater like us, not just someone writing about boating. You could trust Monte's river information and more than that you felt a kinship to him and his book. No one could come up with tales like that unless he had experienced the actual paddling event. Indeed some of those who paddled the Emory/Obed system with him in the early days left their names on rapids which are still used today.

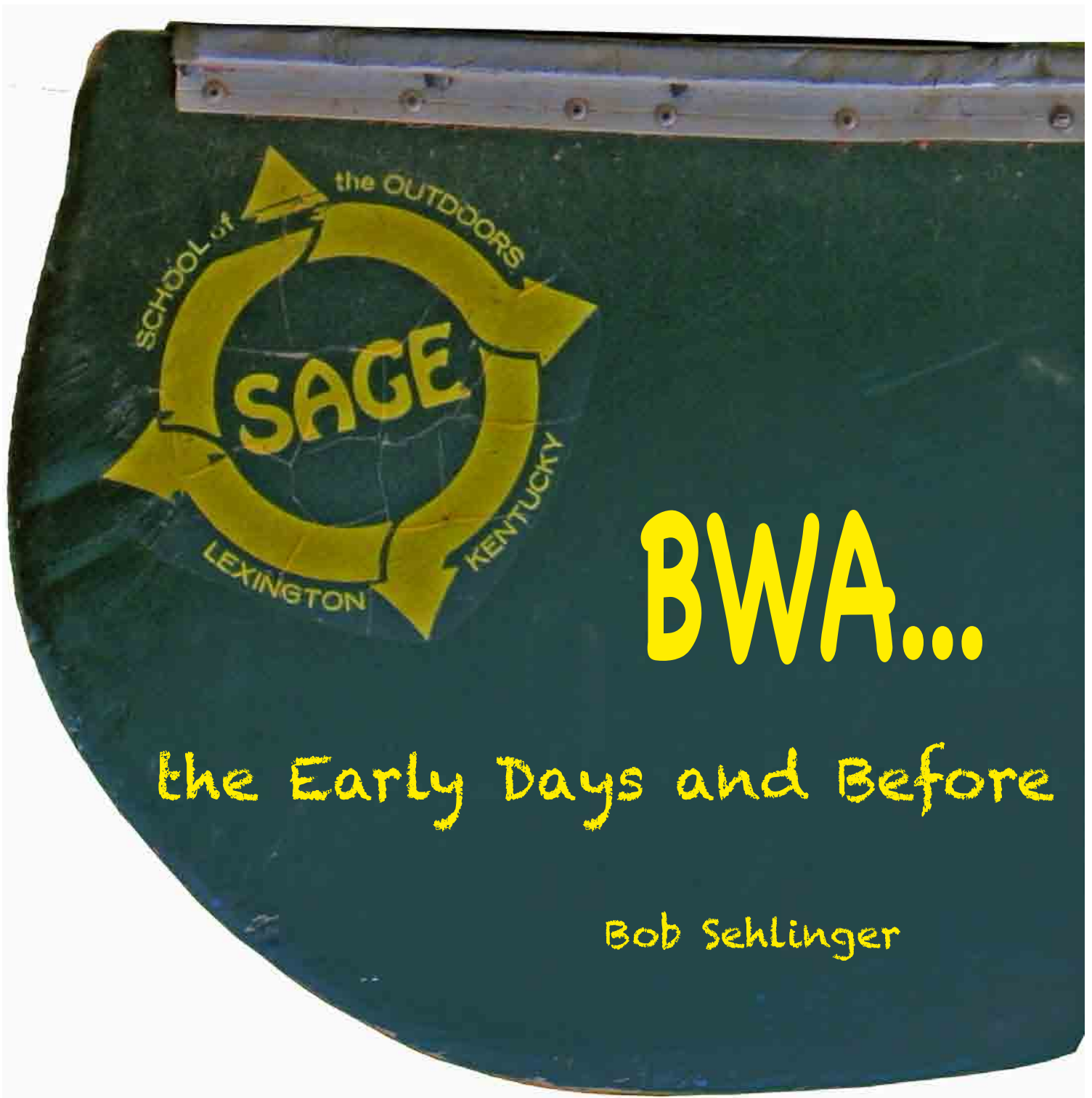
Guidebooks are commonplace nowadays. You can find books on running rivers from Ohio to China. But few if any could give you more good information along with great river stories to read like Monte D. Smith's "The Obed/Emory Watershed, A detailed Guide to 18 Whitewater Canoeing Trips".

These days those who have a copy of the first edition protect it and generally do not lend it out. There was a second edition in 1990 that had some refinements, but alas, it is now out of print also. There is a lot of river information that is easy to obtain nowadays, but for me and many other "old" boaters, none can provide the excitement and fun that this river guide did. It was the best river guide book, ever!

Don Spangler



The second edition from 1990 is also out of print



Before BWA

The change in the Lexington paddling scene (and pretty much everywhere else) has evolved in many unexpected ways. For example, you could count the number of kayaks in Kentucky on one hand in 1972. Flatwater canoe paddling was king during that decade. Grumman and Michicraft aluminum canoes were the boats of choice primarily because we didn't know better. If you were buying a pot for cooking, would you buy one that was manufactured in two pieces stitched together with rivets? Really? But with canoes for some reason nobody found it odd. Fiberglass canoes were available and much better designed than the aluminum clunkers but nevertheless had an uphill struggle in the market place.

Boat design and materials greatly influenced how they were used. Glass boats were not as sturdy then and

aluminum boats tended to stick on even small rocks. Consequently most paddling was done on calm rivers or lakes with adequate depth. Interest in whitewater paddling was beginning to bud but canoes weren't cheap and it was the rare or overconfident boater that risked losing his boat to the rocks. Plus, no one knew what they were missing.

Today boaters drive hundreds of miles to enjoy the thrill and action of whitewater paddling. Back then, however, it was mostly about the scenery. Streams close to home, like the palisades section of the Kentucky River, were explored first. Infinitely more laid back, paddling was a peaceful and exotic way to see the countryside and experience the wilderness. Even after all the years and all the rivers, a fondness for the floating version of sightseeing is permanently tattooed on my boating brain. While my paddling buddies balk if there's not good whitewater involved, I'm just happy being on the river. In fact, some my all-time favorite floats are on blackwater streams in Georgia and Florida.

If whitewater boating was at the incubator stage, canoeing in general was really hitting its stride. Lots of canoes were being sold, and alone or in groups, folks were getting on the water. Problem was, they didn't know what they were doing. If you've ever watched inexperienced paddlers, you've seen constant switching of paddling sides and even more constant arguing and recrimination. There was practically no instruction available in the 60s and early 70s, and that which was (Scouts, summer camps, Red Cross, etc.) was sadly lacking. While in other cities canoe clubs were offering limited instruction, in the Bluegrass no such club existed.

Enter SAGE. The teaching and expeditional company that BWA old-timers recall, came into being when five area outdoor enthusiasts, including myself, turned an extracurricular outdoors skill program for UK students into a business. Located on High Street, SAGE taught canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, backpacking, survival, and myriad wilderness skills to any interested adult. Though a good percentage of our students continued to come from UK, the majority were adults from the greater Lexington area and beyond. In addition to course work offered to the public, we also produced courses and outings for high schools, colleges, universities, and groups such as ski clubs, civic clubs and other organizations. Irrespective of the subject, most courses consisted of one or two evening classroom sessions and a weekend practicum. Though most courses were well attended, the most popular were our paddling courses.

The canoeing courses, especially our introductory

course, called Aqua I, were unique. We taught paddling skills in the context of a very challenging and intense wilderness experience, one that far transcended the subject matter. Our goal was for the student to reach beyond what they thought themselves capable of - to stretch and invest and surmount. To leave with an expanded sense of their capabilities, a feeling of great pride, motivation, and accomplishment, as well as enhanced self-confidence. In the end each student could paddle competently, but understood clearly that what he had just experienced was a lot bigger than canoeing.

The evening classroom session covered basics and afforded the students the opportunity to get know each other. We covered safety issues and laid down certain ground rules. For example, we didn't allow spouses, couples, or siblings to paddle together (I'm certain we saved many good relationships). We also made it clear that students should be prepared to work, that the lake training was not leisurely puttering around.

On Friday evening we convoyed to the training site and set up camp. Favorite teaching locations were the lake at Natural Bridge State Park and Laurel Lake. Because camping was so integral to building community, we never used nearby lakes such as at Jacobson Park. Tents and all canoeing gear were provided by SAGE.

On Saturday morning we started with strokes and progressed into going forward, backwards, turning to the stern paddler's paddling side and to his off side, moving the canoe laterally, and pivoting. We adamantly insisted that the students control the canoe without switching sides and we would whistle a "hup" (paddle side changing command) so they would spend equal time paddling on both the right and left sides. After practicing the above in a confined space, we hung bright orange PFDs on branches about 200 yards apart and set the students paddling (or trying to paddle) from one PFD to the other. We did this until every boat was tracking well. Then we had the teams switch positions so each student had equal time paddling bow and stern. Next they back-paddled the same course, once again switching positions after a while.

Following lunch we did drills conducted by an instructor on shore. Each tandem team, one at a time, would paddle as fast as they could toward the instructor. At a moment of his choosing he'd blow a whistle that commanded them to stop. After they slammed on the brakes, he would have them paddle backwards until they were around four boat lengths from the shore.

Next we did turning drills that would translate to eddy turns on moving water. In this drill the instructor on



Bob Sehlinger with Sage Class at the Cumberland in the early days

shore had the team paddle rapidly toward him. Usually at the last second, he would point left or right indicating the direction the team was supposed to turn.

Following the drills we assigned each tandem boat to one of two teams, and set up two goals about 50 yards apart. The students would then paddle to a spot equidistant from the goals, and we'd toss a Frisbee in the air. The object was to possess and pass the Frisbee and sail it into the opposing team's goal. Not only was the game fun, and a nice break from the drills, but it also served a very important purpose. Up to that point in the day, the students were thinking hard about which stroke or combination of strokes was necessary to go straight or execute a drill. It was both cerebral and taxing. For the first time, playing the Frisbee game, the students (though not realizing it), were paddling intuitively instead of working through a deliberate cognitive process. Because there were ordinarily several capsize during the game it also affording the opportunity to practice canoe-over-canoe rescue.

We'd end the day by setting up a short slalom course.

Instructors ran the course first to demonstrate and establish a base time. Then, depending on the length and complexity of the course, we add a certain number of minutes to the instructors' time to set a target time for the students. Thus, if the instructors completed the course in 2 minutes, we might add two more minutes to arrive at a 4-minute target time for the students to run the course.

For most of the students this was a challenging day physically, with blisters on some knees and hands, and a lot of sore muscles. These last were treated internally with Tylenol and strong drink – that part hasn't changed over the years.

Day-two began with a quick review of day-one and some one-on-one instruction for students with particular problems. Next up was high and low brace instruction. After bracing techniques were taught and practiced, an instructor was chosen to play the river (Dave Moccia was particularly good at this). Simply put, the instructor would position himself behind the center thwart and try to capsize the canoe. Beginning with relatively gen-

tle rocking, he would increase intensity until the boat flipped. Because every boat capsized, this afforded the opportunity for each tandem team to complete a canoe-over-canoe rescue.

After lunch a long slalom course was set up that included a launch, changing positions midway through, a short portage and second launch, and many forward and reverse gates. In short, all skills taught except bracing were included. Once again instructors ran the course to establish a base time, which was usually doubled to set a qualifying time for the students. This was the capstone event of the course. Students who qualified were eligible to sign up for Aqua II, our introductory river running and whitewater course usually conducted within 3 or 4 weeks.

The students had worked very hard, and even those who didn't want to go on to whitewater, paddled their hearts out. Only one tandem team was on the course at a time, while on the shore, the other students passionately cheered them on. When each team paddled over the finish line they were enveloped by the entire group with expressions of praise, congratulations, and if they didn't qualify, words of encouragement. Teams that failed to qualify on their first run were allowed to try again, which almost all did.

The whole weekend, but especially this final test, had a bonding affect on all who participated, including instructors. New friends made in Aqua I courses became lasting relationships. Those friendships generated the nuclear group that would become the BWA or Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

Bob Sehlinger (front) with Ted Sparks running Powell Falls recently on the Locus Fork in Alabama



Bob Selhinger as head of instruction at SAGE School of the Outdoors & Outfitters in Lexington was a mentor to most of the paddlers that would form the BWA. Indeed, SAGE was the focus of all who wanted to experience the outdoors and learn the necessary skills to do so in the seventies. SAGE supported the young BWA club in many ways while it existed.

Bob would eventually form a partnership with William Nealy (Famed Whitewater Cartoonist) and his wife, Holly, to start Menasha Ride Press (www.menasharidge.com). Menasha Ridge Press continued the relationship with the club and indeed it was Bob Sehlinger who had the idea for the BWA to start a film festival. Menasha Ridge Press offered to support it financially until the festival could support itself. In time (after 3 years of failing to make money) the National Paddling Film Festival did succeed better than we might have dreamed. The NPFF is still around after more than 3 decades and each year in February is a event to come to for many paddlers and has raised thousands of dollars for river causes while encouraging paddling video & still image art.

Editor

Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

Lower Gauley first timer's trips, Saturday and Sunday 9/6-7

August 29, 2014 10:37AM

Okay, I can't get away for a long weekend this year or I'd be at the Gauley starting on Thursday, but I'm still going to do some Lower Gauley first timer trips this year, starting on Saturday 9/6/2014. I'll be driving in from Lexington on Saturday morning, so some shuttle coordination will be needed to get the trip going at a reasonable time. Sunday I need to get back as early as I can, so we'll be getting an early start.

The Lower Gauley is pretty friendly overall, but big. If you're uncertain about it, please ask me any questions you want except one. Do not ask me to decide for you whether you're ready for the Lower Gauley. Only you can make that determination.

As in previous years we will put in at Woods Ferry, providing a three mile warm-up on the middle that should give you a taste of the Lower Gauley, especially the last rapid on that section; Backender aka Edge of the World. After that, you can easily take out at Bucklick if you feel you're over your head. The next rapid, Koontz's Flume, is the first of the big signature rapids and although exiting at that point involves walking 1/4 mile back up to Bucklick on a dirt road, it's still pretty easy to pull out there. In other words, you do have ample opportunity to gauge the Lower Gauley before fully committing to a 13 mile day.

She's big and fun and ready for you if you're ready for her. Let me know who's interested and we'll start making plans.

Hanley Loller

Hope to hook up with you Hanley on Sat and maybe Sun - we have to bolt Sun too - maybe faster to eat and meet Brit's Mom in Munfordville by 8:30. The last couple of years we've done non-stop long boat sprints on Sun to make this happen. Not conducive to first timers run so we may have to be on our own Sun as usual sad smiley

As far as readiness for the LG. I used the Keelhaulers's ratings to gauge Brit's readiness a few yrs back. The LG

is rated at 27 and is the same as the NRG at 1'. I prepared Brit for the LG on the Upper Ocoee. It's rated 28 and I figured if Brit handled that she could handle the LG. It turned out to be a perfect plan. We worked hard that Summer on Middle Ocoee power moves (BTW rated 25) and then Labor Day wkend I introduced her to the Upper O. She did well, had fun and the next weekend had more fun on the LG. I agree with the ratings that the Upper Ocoee is slightly more difficult than the LG but the LG has more hazards and is exceedingly more remote if there's an Emergency which must be taken into consideration. So IMO, if you are slicking the Upper O fairly comfortably then you are probably ready for the LG. If not, then you should work on the the Middle O power moves and then Upper O before trying out the LG. Brit and I will likely be on the Upper and Middle Ocoee playboating and long-boating this weekend and including some power moves on the Lower O some as well. Haven't figured out our detailed schedule yet but if you are interested in joining us for some of it fire me a text and maybe we can work it out.

Wes

Hey Wes, good to hear you may be joining us.

Generally I agree with your assessment, except maybe for the idea that the LG has more hazards, but maybe we're defining hazards differently. Perhaps we'll debate it over a beer at the takeout. Generally I consider the LG to be relatively free of hazards that cannot be easily avoided in a wide riverbed, and considerably more forgiving to a swimmer due to it's depth. However, the remoteness is an consideration often overlooked or under appreciated. There are more options during Gauley season than during the off-season due to the dozens of commercial trips on the river, but if you have problems in the depths of the gorge, hiking out or evacuation can be daunting.

The Gauley is a beautiful and majestic run and I hope to see some new faces out there next Saturday. We'll do everything we can to help you make good decisions and have a positive first Gauley experience.

Hanley Loller

September 02, 2014

Cool. Looks like a good group forming. Current plan will be to meet up at Swiss on Saturday morning. Some coordination with Brent's group may be able to save us some shuttle time. I'll get to work on that.

Kent French from the CCC will also be joining us.

Hanley Loller

Cool Hanley. Love how that has worked out in the past few years. Woods Ferry takeout works good for me. Might sleep in my truck Thursday night at the dam - not sure about Friday night. I can tell you where my hide a key is though if you don't recall. If you don't hear from me, it will be at the Dam Thursday night. Depending on Hugo and the overnigher plan, and if that does not happen, I might camp at Woods Ferry campground, whatever it is called, Friday night and very likely on Saturday night. Not sure yet though on either. The Dam is easy, free and the put in, so it is often an easy decision just to stay there too.

Brent

September 05, 2014

Updated list. As far as I know, we're all camping at Tawney Farms. Meet-up time Saturday morning is 10:30 at Swiss.

Jeff Kirkner, Joe Wheatley, Jeff Schetler, Ali Blair, Josh Frazier, Phillip Cornette, Dallas Hargis and yours truly

Carolina Canoe Club folks joining us:

Kent French, - Saturday, maybe Sunday. Rob Parker and Lee Belknap (CCC)

Wes and Britt - maybe Saturday, maybe Sunday, maybe sprinting over the horizon in a flash of blades and sparkling water just as we're about to leave the take-out at the end of the day.

Hanley Loller

September 08, 2014

Well I will just go ahead and say that I completely enjoyed Saturday on the lower. It could not have been a better group. Hanley, Dallas, Jeff k., Bruce, Phillip, Bryan, Wes, Mike Wilson, Joe and Ali are all excellent people to be on the river with. By the way Jeff shelter, I wish I had your cool and confidence, you rocked it. Thanks to all, and especially Hanley for getting the day together, I really ap-

preciate it. By the way I got some more doves this evening. I look forward to getting up there again this season.

Josh Frazier

September 10, 2014

Right back at ya' Josh. It was a great trip and relatively smooth. All the usual suspects were there. Jeff Kirkner and Joe Wheatley are quickly turning into the new BWA power couple. Jeff Schetler was stylin'. Ali Blair had her first ever dry-hair-day on the Lower, Josh Frazier was his usual kid-in-a-candy-shop self and Mike F. Wilson was practically giddy. Dallas just looked serene and blissfully happy. Latecomers Bruce (they call me Bruce) and Brian Sandman tore it up, with Brian surfing everything in sight and providing one of the very few swims of the weekend when he lost his paddle and dinged his nose surfing below Koontz's. Wes and Britt SHOWED UP IN A TIMELY FASHION!!! I kid you not. Perhaps this is the start of a new trend. Also, Britt is starting to give her dad a run for his money as best boater in the family. Phillip undeniably had the worst carnage of the weekend, even though it happened on I-64 on the way home. Huge bummer as that boat really made him look good at Diagonal Ledges, like he was born in it.

In addition to the Usual Suspects, we were graced with the presence of Kent French and Rob Parker from the CCC. Both of these guys were a pleasure to paddle with. Kent is a career whitewater addict who was just looking for someone to boat with and Rob is a beginning boater in his first season. Rob was our only genuine "first timer" on the trip, and he was looking good and having fun. He did provide us with a little carnage, but considering that this is his first year boating, we were all suitably impressed with his skill.

We endured rain, lightning and hail on Saturday, but still had an awesome day. Sunday we lost about half our crew, but got on the water early and were ahead of the thinned out crowd, so we got to surf it up at Diagonal Ledges and still make it to the takeout by 3:05. I had to apologize to Dallas whom I had promised a 3:00 PM takeout time.

.Me, I had a great time. Thank you all. I took a \$h!tload of pictures with my new-to-me Canon XTI at Koontz, but I just downloaded them last night and haven't had the chance to upload them anywhere yet. I'll try to post them tonight, but there are over 300 of them so I'm not just uploading them to my website. I have limited space.

Thank you all for another stellar weekend on the water.

Hanley Loller

NPFF booth at Gauley Fest

September 12, 2014

Good morning campers,

Gauley Festival is one week away! I'm super stoked to report that we've received a free boat from Jackson Kayak to raffle off at our NPFF booth. Jackson has been so good to us for so many years. Our friend Steve Fisher helped us out on this one. Give him a big high five when you see him next. And when you see EJ out and about be sure to thank him on behalf of NPFF.

We'll be raffling off a medium Karma.

Some of the usual BWA/NPFF suspects can't make it to the festival this year (including myself), so we really need help from those of you who plan on attending. I'm going to make a schedule of shifts here for people to sign up to work the booth. We need two people at the booth selling tickets. We'll have loads of competition on raffle ticket sales because there are a plethora of other raffles. The medium Karma is a great boat to raffle though and should generate interest.

YT and John will be there to set up the screen/sound system. Big props to YT for working tirelessly on setting up and breaking down the equipment year after year and event after event. He'll be doing that at Tawney Farms this weekend for a road show. Buy him a beer.

Let me know what shift you can work and I'll jot you down. Thank you so much!

Friday:

6:00-7:00

7:00-8:00

8:00-9:00 Bob, Megan

9:00-10:00

10:00-11:00

Saturday:

6:00-7:00

7:00-8:00 Stephenie, Kyle

8:00-9:00 Cynthia

9:00-10:00

10:00-11:00

love,

bethany (or beverly or whatever)

September 26, 2014

The NPFF booth at Gauleyfest was a very good time. We raised over 700\$ thanks to the generosity of Jackson Kayaks!! We made one young lady very happy as the owner of a brand new Jackson Karma.

Thank you very much to everyone that helped out! John Lawson was an awesome DJ on Friday night. Giving the people a little something different than the usual NPFF roadshow fare. On Saturday Stephanie and Kyle did a fab job of selling raffle tickets until they were relieved by our finisher, John Foy. Thank you guys for making this such a success.

The most praise, as usual, goes to Dave Thomas. YT devoted an enormous amount of his weekend and his energy to make it all happen. You rock the house YT.

Sorry for my delay in getting to this post. I feel like I've been in recovery mode all week.

Our next event will be on October 4 in Elkhorn City. Steve Ruth has requested the roadshow for the Cloudsplitter race. We need volunteers for this event as well and I will start a new thread for that.

Look forward to seeing you all at Ratliff Hole!!!

Mello

Proposed Zoning Changes regarding Rec & Tourism in Fayette

October 14, 2014

I will try to remember to mention this tonight, but I was alerted to a public meeting coming Thursday afternoon, 10/23, with a proposed Zoning Text amendment in regard to Recreation and Tourism uses. Boating access is one topic I think it addresses. The proposed text is here <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=2868>

The public meeting is after the regular planning commission meeting, which starts at 1:30 pm. I have no idea how long the regular meeting would last.

If anyone has nothing to do Thursday afternoon and wants to try to be there to address any attempts at restricting access, please do. I have not read through the proposed ordinance changes to see how it might affect any access to streams or the Ky River, but I suspect it

might.

Zina

October 21, 2014

All-

Just to add some background to this issue that Zina has appropriately brought to the BWA's attention.. this proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment recommends prohibiting canoeing and kayaking, as well as Hiking trails, biking trails, childrens activities, camping and a myriad of other potential outdoor activities (such as outdoor music events) from all Agricultural Rural Zoned land in Fayette County.

This comprises 73% of our land. and most all of our rural greenspace.

It does create a "conditional use" option in a different zone classification of "Agricultural Natural", however this is a red herring because: 1) there is no land currently zoned AN in Fayette county and there has only been one application for a zone change to AN since it was created in 1999. and 2) Without different principle uses no landowner will apply for the zone change - which is very expensive (upwards of 20k) without a use giving them the incentive to do so. there are no new principle uses currently recommended by this ZOTA.

Finally, this ZOTA was created by a panel that sought no public input and consisted only of Agricultural (horse, traditional and wineries) interests. Its priorities reflect that. So, if you think that those three uses are the only types of activity we should allow to maintain and preserve our greenspace you would be for this new law.

But if you believe that we should promote access to our greenspace and waterways, and keep our community open to new innovative ways to sustainably manage and preserve our greenspace and natural areas for future generations, (think mtn biking trails, disc golf, canoe liveries and trail running or as yet undiscovered outdoor activities - grass surfing on helibords for example) then please make your voice heard on this issue.

Promote Access to Greenspace

Stop the Prohibition of ecotourism in Fayette County!
Public Comment is Thursday afternoon, but written statements may also be submitted for the record at: PLAN-NINGMAILBOX@lexingtonky.gov
Reference "Recreational ZOTA"

Burgess Carey

FWIW the boone creek project, was awarded a zone change to AN (the only one ever applied for) by the planning commission but tied (defeated) on the conditional use for canopy tours. I will be withdrawing the property from the zone change request because without the conditional use there is no way to feasibly comply with the more stringent AN requirements.. While I have an interest in the outcome of this regulatory process, it will affect the development of Fayette county forever.

Burgess

Canoe Kentucky - what and why we offer!

October 19, 2014

Hope all BWA folks are enjoying a great fall paddling season. This is definitely the time of year to enjoy it: fall releases, great colors and time for friends. We wanted to send a short note on what Canoe Kentucky offers the boating community and why we offer this things.

First off, rumors have been circulating that we are not a whitewater shop. This is anything but true, as we carry the whole line of Jackson Kayaks, Werner Paddles, Seals Sprayskirts, Astral PFD's and more. We also carry and can get lots of paddling gear and clothing from NRS and Kokatat.

Second, we are the only shop around that you will find a "no questions asked" free whitewater demo use for any boats we carry. Again, we do carry the whole JK line and now have 2015's in stock. We offer this so that you have a chance to feel the boats and know what you want before buying. We do not offer it so that you can "leave your boat at home" and make it easier. We also expect that since we offer this, it would give us first right of refusal when you go to purchase a new boat. On new boats, we are not making any money... and we mean that. A \$1,000.00 ww kayak, before all other costs are paid, costs us around \$750.00. Then include shipping, shop time, staff time, business costs, etc., there is little money to be made. This is the main reason we are not able to offer any discounts on these boats. To top that off, JK and other manufacturers do not allow us to discount, not any dealer on new current product, as to keep the playing field level. And we feel "good on them" for doing that as it is competitive enough without discounting.

Where we are going with this is we do love supporting the ww community in Kentucky. We love attending pool

sessions so new folks can try the best gear available. We love hosting cleanups and making our bluegrass streams even nicer, We love to offer free shuttle service to our loyal customers so we can hear their tales of paddling. We love what we do! What we ask for is your support back. If looking at a new boat purchase or any gear, give us a shot. WE love being a whitewater shop as long as those sales are there. Anymore, it seems like new boaters are pushed to buy used, or it is ok to "ask for a deal". We really do all we can, and if we could offer deals, we would. But we are trying our best to stay successful and trying our best to continue to feed our kids, pay the bills, and leave something better for the next generation.

Please consider this when making your next purchase, and give us a shot. We will do everything we can to serve you, let you know if we cannot, and we will continue loving what we do and supporting the BWA in any way we can. An fact, need anything, please, please, please... ASK! We would love to help if it involves our great sport!

Happy Paddling, and River Love,

Nathan, Allison, Adam and the whole Canoe Kentucky Family

I've said it before and I'll say it again, Canoe Kentucky is the best "White Water" shop in the area. If you're a new boater and not checking them out first you're messing up. I've purchased boats, PFD's, spray skirts and a ton of other stuff from them and can't say enough about this awesome little shop that we're lucky enough to have right in our back yard. They have a great selection, a friendly crew and if nothing else it's just fun to hang out and talk trips with Nathan and Allison. Support the shop that supports us.

Bob Larkin

October 20,2014

KOC is not only a great place to shop they are also an advocate for our club in the Frankfort area! They have provided boats for countless roll sessions. Stop and visit when running Elkhorn and add to your winter paddling gear.

Joe W.

I'll just chime in that CKY has loaded up boats and hauled them to Lexington for numerous roll sessions, which always amazed me. That's a lot of work, usually with a

couple of employees assisting, just to be at the roll session and let people demo boats. I've always said that there is no way that effort was balanced by increased sales. So why do it?

There's only one explanation, love of the sport and of the paddling community here. CKY has shown us a lot of love over the years, not to mention donating generously to the talent show prize collection.

Plus, over the years there have been several shops in Lexington that have dabbled in WW gear, but CKY is the only shop that has consistently remained as a dedicated paddling shop.

Just sayin'
Hanley Loller

I love c.ky! They helped me through the entire process of getting started. They DO specialize in ww gear and always have an awesome selection of used boats as well! I bought a boat rack from them and Nathan installed it, no questions asked. He will listen to your needs and sell you a boat accordingly. That's huge. He gave me free shuttle services for like a year after I bought my first boat. They ROCK! Keep up the good work!

Tim Shuler

What Hanley said. I've bought 4 new and 2 demo boats from CK since 2007, 2 drysuits, couple of paddles, and assorted smaller purchases. They've always done me right and I appreciate all they've done to support the BWA, NPFF, TRR, local paddlers and the streams we love. Thanks Canoe Kentucky!

Wes

Eddy Lines of Interest

September 2014 Steering Committee Member Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2014 @ Marikka's Restaurant Members Present: Bob, Don, Wendy, Peter, John M., Katherine H.
Next Steering Committee Meeting: October 7, 2014

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Bob at 7:45 p.m.

II. Minutes

Moved (John); Second (Katherine) to accept the minutes from the previous Steering Committee meeting on August 5, 2014. Motion passed.

III. Old Business

Katherine H.: The planning for the Women's Clinic has begun. They have been coordinating with Jason Foley. However, due to delays, weather, and water levels, it was decided to hold the Women's Clinic after the 2014 Spring Clinic, while still in the current fiscal year.

Peter Stutts: Signs have been ordered for Elkhorn Acres. Gravel-work will be scheduled for November.

IV. New Business

Katherine reported on behalf of Tom Minor: Roll sessions are going great. Indoor sessions will begin in January at Pinacle; more details later.

John Mello: Auction items are needed for NPFF. Crowne Plaza Hotel is reserving the 8th Floor for guests of NPFF at a rate of \$89/room. NPFF will be replacing their projector for events such as Gauley fest.

The subject of BWA purchasing grills was revisited. Bob will research some options and report back at next meeting.

Discussion of the upcoming BWA General Meeting – John announced there would be a Gear Swap as part of the meeting program. Don suggested inviting J&H to attend.

Discussion about food: Pot Luck vs. BYOF. In any case, BYOB.

Moved (Katherine), Second (Don) that the upcoming BWA meeting, "The Great BWA Potluck and Gear Swap Meeting," will be held at Elkhorn Acres at 7 p.m. Motion passed.

(NOTE: Time Change of Meeting due to inevitable darkness.)

V. Adjournment:

Moved (Katherine), Second (John) that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed.

Wendy

Bluegrass Wildwater Association General Club Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2014 @ Elkhorn Acres
Steering Committee Members Present: Bob Larkin, Adelessa Grace, Joe Wheatley, John Mellow, and Wendy Scroggins
Next General Club Meeting: October 14, 2014

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by VP, Bob Larkin at 8:10 p.m.

II. Minutes

Moved (Adelessa); Second (John) to accept the minutes from the previous meeting on August 12, 2014. Motion passed.... Which is interesting, considering there are no minutes from the August meeting. BWA members are nothing if not accommodating. ;)□

III. Officer Reports

a. NPFF – John Mellow: Several road-shows coming up before NPFF. West 6th Street Brewery and Country Boys, Tawny Farms, Gauley Fest, and Russell Fork opening (10/4/14). We need shifts of 2 people for an hour at a time to work the booth at Gauley Fest. Bethany has scored a Jackson Karma to raffle off at Gauley Fest.

b. Webmaster – Joe Wheatly: Reported that the website crashed today. Don Perkins had made mention of the problem online. At this point it is back up and running.

c. Vice President – Bob Larkin: In Jacob's absence, Bob reported for the Membership Coordinator, there are 202 active members and 20 who have not paid their dues. Any paid members that have not received their Elkhorn Acres Parking Pass should let Jacob or Bob know.

d. Secretary – Wendy Scroggins: No report.

e. Program Director – Adelessa Harbour: No report.

IV. Old Business:

Reminder to everyone to be on good behavior for the Rendezvous weekend October 25. Keep alcohol in cups, etc. Our behavior on this weekend could directly affect the chances of holding our Spring Clinic there.

Further discussion on the pros/cons of holding Spring Clinic 2015 at Ratliff Hole or Carson Island.

V. Trip Reports:

Brandy, Megan Jonathan Vaught, Kat, and Joe told about their awesome weekends.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Wendy

In Some Secluded Redezvous

Photo by Hanley



With cocktails for two?



Bluegrass Wildwater Association
PO Box 4231
Lexington, Ky. 40504

BWA Meetings

Meetings held Second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm
To eat during the meeting come a little early so you can place your order before the meeting starts.
For up-to-date info on meetings always check <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org>