

BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. March/April 2018

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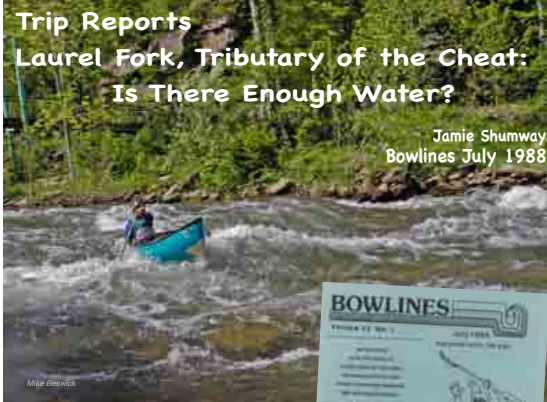
In our Own Words....

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 Is There Enough Water?

Jamie Shumway
 Bowlines July 1988

From Bowlines July 1988

"This is unquestionably the best run of the Cheat basin" says *Wild Water West Virginia*. Early in the week we were anticipating our opportunity to paddle the Laurel Fork. The weather service forecast rain for Wednesday and Thursday. I encouraged Mark to get a raft for Friday so he could film the remote canyon, and invited some friends to go along with us. Wednesday came, a little rain. Thursday, a little more. The Parson's gage was 4.2 feet and rising at 7 a.m. Friday. We all wanted to believe that the middle and southern part of wild and wonderful West Virginia got more rain than we received up north.

We arrived at the laurel Fork at 11 a.m. Friday. The temperature was 75 degrees and sunny. The party consisted of Ken and Salty Stebbins, Brad Losh, Mark Samels, Betsy Pyle and me, Jamie Shumway. Betsy and I paddled a tandem open canoe, while the four others paddled an 8' Avon raft. Ken and

Meeting Location For April

Marikka's Restaurant & Bier Stube
 411 Southland Dr, Lexington, KY 40503

Our Meeting Room (the Jackson Douglas Room) is located upstairs

Members will have access to purchase off the full menu of food and drinks in our private room. **Please order all your food and drinks in the private room and do not start a tab at the bar.** This allows us to show our support for letting the BWA use Marikka's space. So, come to the meeting early at 6:30PM and share some good food and beverages with your fellow boater before the program.

<http://marikkaslex.com/>

Our Program

Paddle Sports: Then, Now and Where We Go From Here
 by Nathan Depenbrook of Canoe Kentucky

Please come join us at the new Marikkas on Southland Drive for an exciting program presented by Nathan Depenbrook, the owner of Canoe Kentucky! He'll be discussing several pertinent topics relating to our sport that will most certainly satisfy the rank beginner all the way up to the hardened veteran. Nathan will be venturing through a quick history of the industry, while also discussing many of the current manufacturer and retailer trends. He will then lead us through the direction he envisions the industry will likely be heading.

For those curious about boat and gear rental for the Beginner's Clinic, or those aspiring to purchase new gear, he'll provide information on how Canoe Kentucky may be of service.

Huge thanks go out to Nathan and Canoe Kentucky for being a proud supporter of the BWA and our many endeavors for all these years. We are ecstatic to have him and look forward to the unique perspective he's graciously agreed to share with us! We hope to see you all there!



Coming soon to a stream Near You!

BWA Elkhorn Trash Bash
 It's our stream....keep it clean!



Photo from a 1984 BWA Elkhorn Cleanup...Let's continue the tradition!

Join the Great Elkhorn Trash Bash May 12!
 More info to follow !

Looking Ahead

Coming BWA Meetings

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

BWA Monthly Meeting Meet & Eat

Location can vary

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

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

BWA April General Club Meeting

10 Apr 2018 6:30 PM,

**at Marikka's Restaurant & Bier Stube
411 Southland Dr,
Lexington, KY 40503**

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Pool Canoe/Kayak Roll Sessions

For dates check:

<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-2379023>

Learn to wet exit, bow rescue, and roll.

Meet BWA members and be involved.

Wash your boats, inside and out, before arrival.

Cost:

\$5 - Members

\$2 - Member child 12-18

Free - Member child 11 and under

\$10 - Non-member

\$5 - Non-member child

First roll session ever? Non-members pay member rates



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

Club Officers 2017-2018

President	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Vice-President	Mike Daugherty	859-554-8489
Treasurer	Ben Mudd	859-576-9834
Secretary	Jansen Cunningham	270-703-0352
Safety	Robert Watts	859-33-3341
Program	Clay Warren	859-326-0602
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Brian Storz	859-324-2875
Film Festival Coordinator	James Welch	859-954-2025
Equipment Coordinator	Brandy Mellow	859-312-8640
At-Large Member	Codie Dunn	859-473-4232
Membership Coordinator	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
Past President	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225

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>

**BWA members want to read your story!
Short or long. Sad or Funny.
Tell us your paddling related story! Please!!**

Files can be e-mailed to the Editor: 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/>

The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky for it's support.
We urge you to patronize them for your outdoor needs.

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Memories of the NPFF 2018

And The NPFF 2018 Report 2018 Entries & Winners







NPFF 2018 Report

James Welch



NPFF killed it this year for the whitewater adventurer! February 16th and 17th *Buffalo Trace Distillery* hosted the *National Paddling Film Festival* again, welcoming some of the most amazing individuals this world has to offer. Friday was a busy day for the set-up crew arranging the silent auction and rearranging the building to the way we have become accustomed to seeing it.

The evening started off with beer flowing, people chatting about their most recent trips some of which having occurred early that same day. With the amazing weather conditions we were experiencing focus was on if the race would happen. Sadly, due to too much water, the race was postponed to a later date.

With vintage boating reels playing the 2018 npff was off and running and to my bewilderment the rumours are all true after it starts the next task for the director is to have a toast and wait to cleanup! Not such a bad gig in the end! Jack Wright had arrived early that day on the BJ express, and shortly after meeting Jack I knew he was going to tell some great boating stories! Shortly after the evening began, the Jacksons came pouring in, toting boats and hopes of boating the next day. Jack Wright closed up his monologue on Friday, and the first day of the festival was over. We continued our shindig down at the rowdy *Brick Alley*, as others migrated to their appropriate locations to hunker in for the night. The race had been called off so - boating steeps and local gems was a promising plan.

The next thing I knew was the cool water of Glenn's washing under my boat. The tribe was off to a great start and we all styled it and even caught a brief winter flurry on the way down the creek. At the take out Brent was chomping at the bit to get to the Calloway to sandbagging the run to Nick Troutman, who was excited to get a new run in. Back at the capital, Emily was having a day of school and swimming with the children who were all bummed that *Fomey Friends* didn't make an appearance this year. The Saturday NPFF was even better: the silent auction and door was running super smooth with the help of the new iPads, and *American Whitewater* membership was up 30 percent by the end of event. Nick Troutman, our guest host and *Jackson Kayak* team member, gave an excellent show on his wild love, showing some great footage of them having a blast on the water. Next up was our crazy boat giveaway! That was a smashing success big shout out to *Canoe Kentucky*, the Jackson family, *Liquidlogic* and Pat Keller! You guys rocked it hard!

All and all when the lights turned off and the clean up crew came in the next day, the NPFF 2018 had been a smashing hit, even with all the additional rain. Drum roll please: this year we brought in a whopping 18,145. 34!*

Positive vibes and hugs to everyone who came and everyone involved with this year's *National Paddling Film Festival*! Donation list will be announced soon!

NPFF 2018 Entries & Winners



Rafa Ortiz Goes Over Waterfall on Inflatable Lobster

Lobster falls - Rafa Ortiz Rafa takes down 70ft waterfall on an inflatable lobster, and claims the World Record for inflatable pool toy highest waterfall descent

Kayaking Big South Fork July 2017-Rob Jason -On July 15, 2017 four friends and family, and our waterloving Boykin Spaniel, took to Big South Fork Recreation area to paddle one of the South's most beautiful rivers, the Cumberland, from Station Camp to Blue Heron, camping just before the Tennessee-Kentucky state line. We set off late in the afternoon with the Leatherwood Ford gauge reading around 600 CFS and by the time we arrived to take on Devil's Jump by moonlight the following day the river had dropped to around 400 CFS. What a beautiful place BSF was to kayak!

Weekend Wanders-Priscilla Macy -Spending weekdays at school and work makes it hard not to look forward to the weekend ahead; this is where our choices become our own, and we find ourselves exactly where we want to be, when we want to be there. Weekend Wanderers a story about working hard during the week and spending the limited time we have away from the desk in the places we love and are inspired by: on familiar streams and, when given the chance, by exploring new landscapes with the days we have to ourselves.

Adrian Mattern 2017 Highlight Reel - My 2017 season took me to Chile, Canada/Quebec, USA, Norway, Italy, Austria, Pakistan and Mexico. Thanks to my friends, family and sponsors for helping me to live my dream!

Bren Orton 2017 Highlight Reel-The best and rowdiest year I have ever had on the water. Much love and thanks to all of my friends, family and sponsors for helping me to follow my dreams! 2018 is gonna be crazy!
Bren

Home of the Vikings -Norway has been known as a kayaking Mecca for decades. The country's whitewater was explored, pioneered and descended by a dedicated crew of local and international kayakers. They recorded their exploits in a book and passed down their knowledge to the next generation. In the summer of 2017 the crew embarked on a Norwegian odyssey with the aim to push hard and progress on some of the biggest and best sections of whitewater in the world.

Despite how epic the classic sections are, there is still so much left to be found in Norway and their trip culminated in one final descent of the infamous "Megatron" rapid.

The Lion River Pakistan's reputation has been unfortunately tainted over years of past with several extremist groups causing security issues in the country, thankfully the dark days of fighting are over and Pakistan's reputation and tourism industry is steadily recovering. The country is also making a mark on the kayaking community for its legendarily powerful whitewater found on the Indus river. Whilst the Indus is the only river featured on this edit we also kayaked the Gilgit, Astore and Hunza rivers all of which are much lower volume than the Indus and contain everything from steep class 5 kayaking to perfect stretches for beginners. We were continually blown away by the friendliness and the hospitality of the local people and just how safe and easy it is to get around in this country! Our crew consisted of Adrian Mattern Bren Orton, Daniel Egger, Kristof Stursa, Sam Grafton and Thomas Neime. Not all of the kayakers feature in this video as we were committed to only using the best shots but the crew was awesome!

Return from Desolation-Justin Clifton -Return from Desolation is the story of Garrett Eaton, an Afghan war vet, oilman, and river guide who has fought his way back from addiction and certain death through the wild serpentine rivers of the American Southwest. While this is a story of renewal, forgiveness and healing, Return from Desolation is also a bridge between what we think we know and the nuance of what it means to be human in a complex society. Through Garrett's experience, we see the importance of wild, public landscapes to help us all find our way home.

Chasing Wild-Colin Arisman -Produced by Wild Confluence Media In Association with Gear Junkie, Supported by Ibis Cycles, Kokopelli Packraft & Wetfly Fishing

Wild Olympic-Colin Arisman -Paddlers and conservationists Adam and Susan Elliot set out to explore the wild rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula's wild rivers give us clean water, world-class recreation and unmatched opportunities for inspiration and solitude. They bring jobs and economic benefits to local communities and provide critical habitat for salmon, steelhead and a variety of other fish and wildlife. Wild and Scenic designation—the strongest protection a river can receive—ensures that the free-flowing character, water quality and outstanding values of these rivers are protected for generations to come. Learn more at wildolympics.org

Directed by Colin Arisman and Tyler-Wilkinson Ray

Produced by Wild Confluence Media in association with Where Next

Presented by American Whitewater with support from Patagonia

"The Unseen Mountains"-Nicole Ellena -The Unseen Mountains is a documentary that seeks to discover the Nahuelbuta mountain range through the descent in kayak of one of its most emblematic rivers: the Carampague. The journey will initiate from the birth of the river and continue until its mouth in order to highlight the natural richness of this territory, while also seeking to emphasize how the expansive forestry industry has had a profound environmental and social impact.

The Breaks: Centuries of Struggle-Andrew Reed -Six men –separated by two centuries –lives marked with intrigue, hardship, and tragedy. From moonshiner shootouts and empire building to railroad explosions and drowning victims, this is the story of six individuals whose lives would be forever changed by a common thread –"the Breaks" –the wild west of the east. In a documentary film industry saturated with contemporary topics, this award-winning film beautifully rekindles a genre from yesteryear to chronicle the struggle between those seeking to exploit the Breaks and those trying to protect it. The conflict finally comes to a boil in the early 1950s culminating in the establishment of one of only two interstate parks in the United States. And yet in spite of its park status, the Breaks continues to be under threat today.

A Misty Existence -Colby Elliot -Loves Falls a stretch of the very wild North Fork of the Yuba. This is an artistic piece that is a tribute to the deep undiscovered beauty of the place, a place shrouded in mist and mystery, a place only truly experienced by close proximity to the river. The music and mist envelops us and we are transported to the setting for a brief moment, experiencing the mist existence that is Loves falls.

The Backender Boat-Chris Preperato -In 1973, Dan Demaree and Jim Snyder attempted a first descent of Ohniopyle Falls. It might be the single most important run of the falls to occur...the trickle down effects of that day influencing boats forty years later. Except, on that July day, neither one of them actually made it over the falls.

Una, Unac, Vrbas & Cetina - A Balkan boating roadtrip -Jacob Kastup Haagensen -Una, Unac, Vrbas & Cetina is an adventure short film from four rivers of the Balkan. Follow two friends who barely know each other on a whitewater boating road trip. An adventure in a shitty car on small roads, in inhabited caves and down the whitewater and rapids in the pristine limestone rivers of Bosnia and Croatia. Rivers whose name can be hard to pronounce.

Wild Coast -Kelsey Thompson -Local SUP surfers Emre Bosut and Glen Pearson discuss the experience of living and surfing in Tofino, British Columbia.

River of a path-Alberto Sachero -A solitary river trip in canoe from river Po, to the Adriatic Sea and Venetian Lagoon, starting in the center of Turin arriving in the Venetian canals, in the company of "gondolieri"... A water path of 650 kilometers, in beautiful forgotten landscape and also some peculiar meetings with unique people who live on the river, letting the river more them with its flow... A slow and quite river trip in the extraordinary nature of Pianura Padana and its amazing cities of arts, in respect of the environment and absolute silence of the canoe navigation. The only obstacles met and overcome are man made...

Lord of the Fork-Andrew Reed-Kayaker John Lord's final journey is explored through the lives of those he left behind in this short documentary narrated by Mike Rowe.

The Canoe-Goh Iromoto -"If it is love that binds people to places in this nation of rivers and in this river of nations then one enduring expression of that simple truth, is surely the canoe." This film captures the human connection and bond created by Canada's well-known craft & symbol, the canoe. Through the stories of five paddlers across the province of Ontario, Canada - a majestic background both in it's landscape & history - the film underscores the strength of the human spirit and how the canoe can be a vessel for creating deep and meaningful connections.

Produced in partnership by the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, Tourism Northern Ontario, Ontario Parks, Northwest Ontario Tourism, Tourism Thunder Bay, and Peterborough & Kawarthas Tourism.

Deliver Us-Briggs Gilliam - 6 friends R2 Big Creek in the *Great Smoky Mountains Natitonal Park*

National Paddling Film 2018 Festival Winners

Best Pro Documentary

Wild Coast by Kelsey Thompson



The experience of living and surfing in Tofino, British Columbia.

Best Professional General

Home of the Viking by SEND



Norway has been known as a kayaking Mecca for decades. The countries whitewater was explored, pioneered and descended by a dedicated crew of local and international kayakers. They recorded their exploits in a book and passed down their knowledge to the next generation. In the summer of 2017 the Send crew embarked on a Norwegian odyssey with the aim to push hard and progress on some of the biggest and best sections of whitewater in the world.

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Whitewater paddlers viewed waterfalls as certain death in the 1970s. It seemed impossible to escape a large hydraulic created by a waterfall in a narrow, pointy 13' kayak... that is, until a couple of intrepid paddling guides decided to chop the ends off their boats. What resulted was the emergence of the Backender Boat and the birth of a whole new whitewater sport.

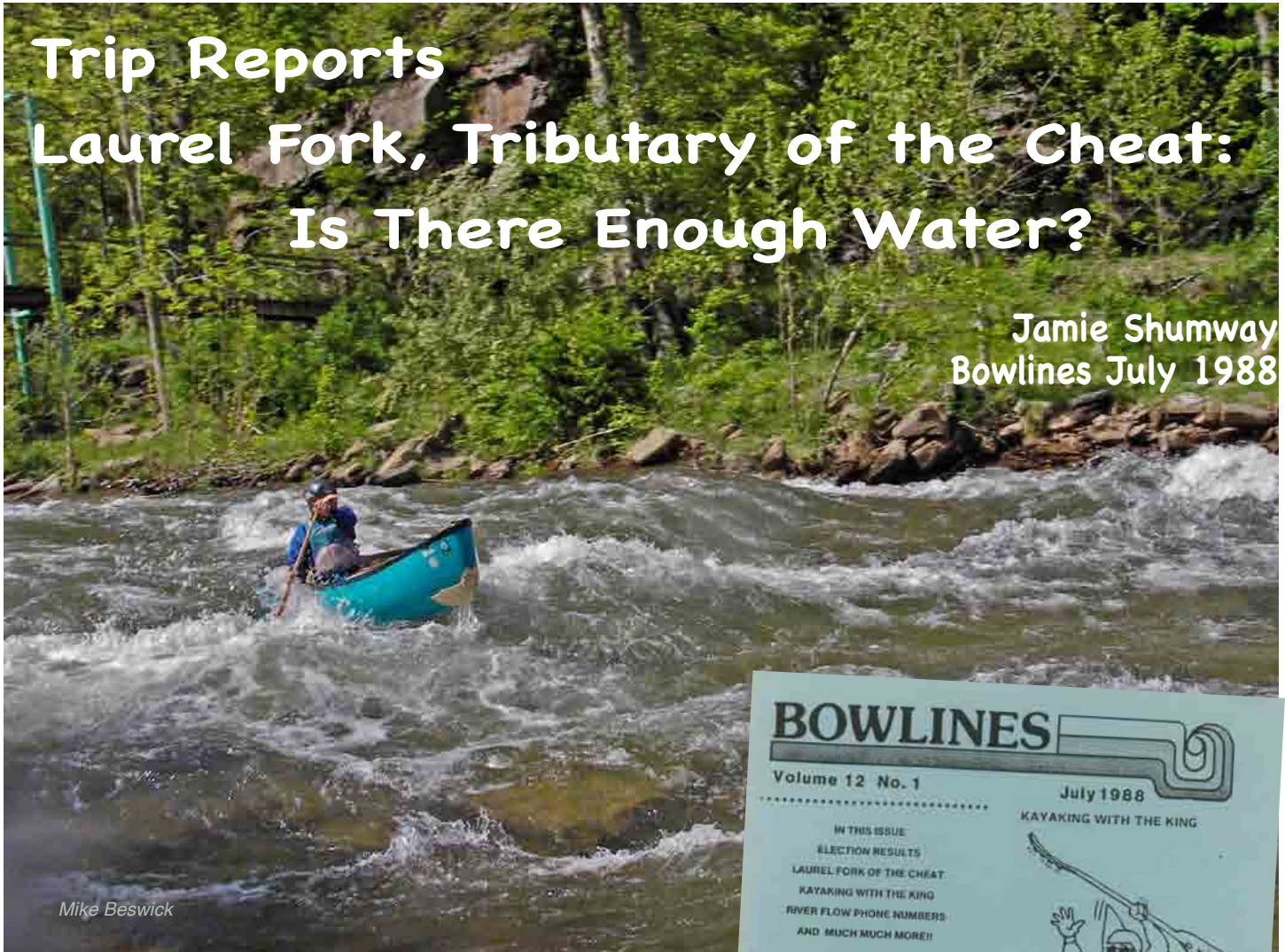
The NPFF

Giving Back to Rivers - Giving Back to Community

For 35 years the National Paddling Film Festival has been hosting an annual competition to determine the best in paddle sport videos and images. Since 1981 we've raised \$158,000 in donations to American Whitewater and river causes.

We thank the paddling community for your continued support.

Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...



Trip Reports

Laurel Fork, Tributary of the Cheat: Is There Enough Water?

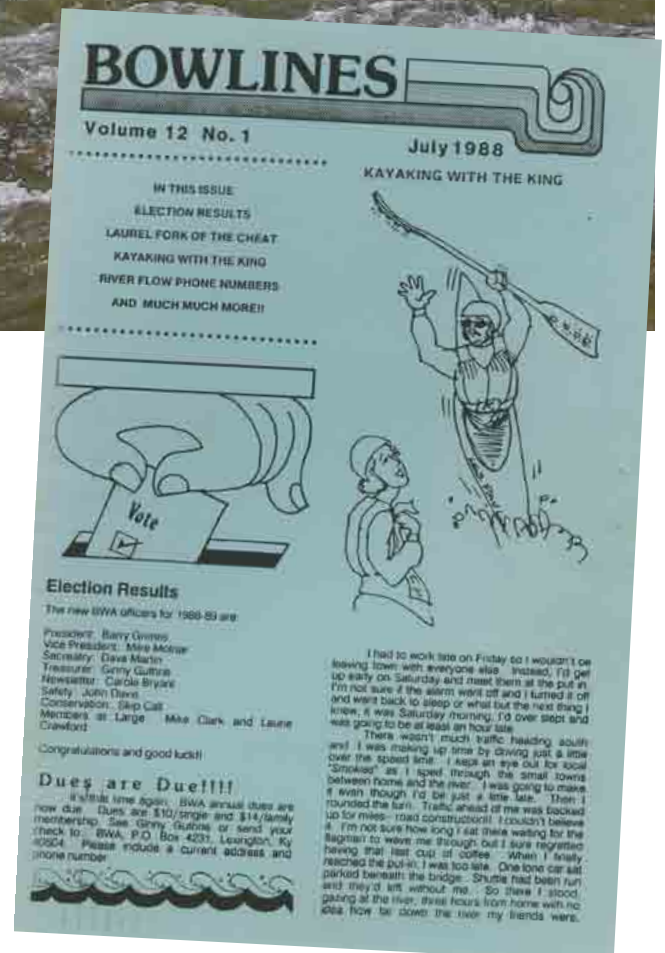
Jamie Shumway
Bowlines July 1988

Mike Beswick

From Bowlines July 1988

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We arrived at the laurel Fork at 11 a.m. Friday. The temperature was 75 degrees and sunny, The party consisted of Ken and Salty Stebbins, Brad Losh, Mark Samels, Betsy Pyle and me, Jamie Shumway. Betsy and I paddled a tandem open canoe, while the four others paddled an 8' Avon raft. Ken and Sally had been rafting before. Brad is an experienced raft guide.



Mark began kayaking last year. Betsy and I are experienced boaters. We looked at the water in the Laurel Fork; it looked a little low. But our enthusiasm let us to overlook signs that it might actually be falling rather than rising.

Wild Water West Virginia and Appalachia Waters V stated that a reading of 5' on the Parson's gage is necessary to run any of the upper Cheat tributaries. Brad said he could get the raft down the river. We agreed; we were eager to run this 13 mile Cheat tributary which has the reputation of being one of the most scenic and remote rivers in West Virginia. The shuttle was surprisingly straightforward, given the remoteness of the area. The Laurel Fork Canyon north of highway 33 has been designated as a 6.2 remote habitat area in the Monogahela National Forest Plan. This management prescription is as close to a wilderness designation as any, mainly due to the remoteness and ruggedness of the terrain. We were eager to see this area since access was mainly by the river and we have heard so much about its beauty. We returned from the shuttle and put on at noon. Three miles into the run, we realized we weren't making the progress we'd hoped for, yet still thought we'd be off the river before dark. At 4 p.m. we reached the falls, approximately 7 to 9 miles into the trip depending on which guide book you believe. We now knew we had to hurry if we were going to be finished by dark. Low water conditions had slowed our progress considerably. On many occasions, we had to get out and drag our boat and raft over the exposed rocks.

The three miles before the falls consisted of 2 to 4 foot river wide ledges, which we ran after scouting where the most water went of the drop. The gradient is approximately 60 feet per mile for that stretch. After carrying around the falls on river left, we proceeded down the next 2 miles. In this section, the canyon walls become steeper, the river narrows down, the drops become more frequent and the gradient increases to about 70 to 80 feet per mile. The scenery was outstanding, as we viewed it in fading light. Rock cliffs line the river with nearly vertical canyon walls rising 600 feet. Rock outcroppings were apparent near the top of the canyon. The deep green hues of hemlock, rhododendron and laurel dominated the streambanks. In certain respects, the scenery reminded me of the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. The whitewater and stream size was like "The Mile" section on Slippery Rock Creek in Pennsylvania or the Tellico River in Tennessee.

After the short and exciting 2 mile section following the falls, the river widened but continued to drop at 60 feet per mile. By now it was getting dark; we were still on the river and the amount of dragging increased, due to the widening of the streambed.

Darkness was upon us and we were still paddling and dragging. Now with the help of moonlight, we progressed slowly. Someone remarked that it was 10 p.m.; surely the confluence with the Dry Fork was just around the next bend, wasn't it? We thought we saw a white house in the distance, but it was another large exposed rock wall. Betsy and I were hit by a branch that hung over the river. We didn't see it in the dark and consequently capsized.

We continued on in the dark and anticipated other strainers, and lined around them. In the dark we would paddle 50 feet and drag the same distance. Where was the confluence with the Dry Fork? Progress at this time was measured in yards. At 11 p.m. we stopped to talk things over. We were fatigued having been on the river with little extra food, and having gone through our supply of water. Every one of us had the sincere desire to keep going, because we felt we were close to the confluence with the Dry Fork and to our cars. But were we? After 11 hours on the river, the group decision was to get out and bivouac for the night. A level but rocky spot of ground was found. The raft and canoe were leaned on a fallen log to provide shelter. The airbags came out of the canoe to provide a small measure of comfort and insulation between the ground and our bodies. We huddled together as we tried to sleep, but most of us just waited for the night to pass, lying awake, letting our exhausted bodies rest.

We got up with the first light. The temperature had dropped to the mid or low 40's because the cloud cover had dissipated. The wetsuits and pile did a marginal job keeping us warm at night. Those with drysuits stayed warmer. After first light we waited until 7:30 to put on. We shared three granola bars. drank river water and shared the future possibility of "beaver fever" (giardiasis). We were on the river for the second day of what was to have been a day trip.



Laural Fork Falls, West Virginia

In the morning's light, we could see why we had difficulty making progress the night before. The water level had dropped steadily since putting on the previous noon. There were too many exposed rocks. The stream bed had widened and was filled with rock debris left by the 1985 flood.

We paddled and dragged for another hour covering about a mile. We weren't making much progress. A group decision was made to carry out on an old logging grade above river left. The sun was out, we warmed up and began our carry. About 200 yards down the grade, we heard voices and saw an all terrain vehicle in a pasture. A farmer and his son, who were tending a cow and her day old calf, told us that we were still about three miles from our cars. We immediately struck a deal to be shuttled to our cars.

There are many lessons learned from this experience. I have always said "don't believe everything you read" especially with respect to river guide books. This turned out to be false and true in this case. We now wish we had heeded the advice on the impracticality of the run at less than the recommended water level, even though the authors were using a correlated gage rather than one on the tributary itself. Wild Water West Virginia said the run was 13 miles; Appalachia Waters indicated 16 miles. The run was longer than we anticipated, probably closer to the latter estimate. When no one in the group has experience with the river you'll be running, bank on the longer estimate. Next time I go paddling on a remote river, I will carry with me: iodine for water purification, matches to start a fire. a flashlight, and candle lantern. We had a first aid kit. but it didn't contain these items. Long and remote rivers require us to take a broader view of first aid that the usual aspirin, bandaids, or ace wrap that initially come to mind.

We used questionable judgement in running an unknown river with a 60 feet per mile gradient in the dark. We could have had serious trouble; we were lucky. It was our good fortune to be wearing wetsuits, drysuits and pile garments. While wet, these kept some of us warm at night. One also needs to be mentally prepared to deal with the unexpected while paddling in remote areas. The human spirit in this case was a wonderful thing. All of us were supportive of each other and kept our confidence and composure under difficult and uncomfortable circumstances.

I highly recommend this river, but not under the circumstances that we experienced. Wait for more water. Look at the water level at the Highway 33 bridge and use good judgement. Do this river in a group. It is far too remote for one or two paddlers. At adequate water levels it would be a class III-IV run with several river wide potential keeper hydraulics. Never boat alone, especially on this river. The flood of 1985 has changed this river, it has widened it in spots and filled it in in others. This is especially true the closer you get to the confluence with the Dry Fork. Many strainers were present, be on the lookout.

Finally, when we got off the river and headed back to the put in to get our shuttle vehicle, we came upon other boaters at the put in for the Glady Fork (another small tributary of the Cheat). We told them of our experience and reminded them of the low water level. We left hoping that they would use better judgement than we had, but knowing that the lure of these Cheat tributaries is sometimes greater than one can refuse.

Jamie Shumway

About the Laurel Fork of the Cheat

The Cheat River watershed drains approximately 1,422 square miles in northeastern West Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland. The watershed spans five West Virginian counties including Monongalia, Preston, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker, while only a small portion of the watershed reaches Fayette and Garrett counties in Pennsylvania and Maryland respectively.

The headwaters of the Cheat originate deep within the wilderness setting of the Monongahela National Forest. The five forks of the Cheat (Blackwater River, Shavers, Dry, Glady, and Laurel Forks) are all well-known coldwater fisheries that support healthy fish populations. These major headwater tributaries join to form the Cheat River near Parsons, West Virginia. The Cheat River flows north approximately 162 miles past the towns of St. George, Rowlesburg, Albright, and Cheat Lake before discharging into the Monongahela River at Point Marion in Pennsylvania.

Source: Friends of the Cheat



About the Author: Jamie Shumway

Jamie Shumway grew up in Northern California. He was an undergraduate in Northern California, got his doctorate at UNC (Chapel Hill) and then came to Lexington in 1981 for his first professional job at the University of Kentucky. While living in Lexington Jamie joined the BWA and developed his enthusiasm for whitewater paddling. I paddled with Jamie & his wife Betsy many times including on some great wilderness trips in Canada & out west.

Jamie and Betsy moved to Morgantown, WV in 1985, had a son, and he eventually became the Associate Dean for Medical Education at West Virginia University's (WVU) School of Medicine. Jamie developed ALS and died in 2014. His last effort before he died was to write his memoir: **Off Belay: A last Great Adventure**. It was a recounting of his life leading to his last challenge, ALS.

Jamie always wore a smile and had a positive demeanor that we always appreciated. That and his enthusiasm made him a great companion to paddle with and a friend you could rely on.

Photo: Jamie Shumway on a portage on the Missinnabi River in Ontario Canada in the eighties.

Coming soon to a stream Near You!

BWA Elkhorn Trash Bash

It's our stream....keep it clean!



Photo from a 1984 BWA Elkhorn Cleanup....Let's continue the tradition!

Join the Great Elkhorn Trash Bash June 2!
More info to follow !

Elkhorn Creek Clean-Up

Elkhorn Creek Clean-up

Bowlines March/April 1984

**A Challenge
from our past...
Can it be beat?**



BWA 'ers helping with the Elkhorn 1984 Clean-up: Pam Weeks, Paula Straw, Don Spangler, Jan Atlee.

On March 3 more than 50 dedicated canoeists and kayakers from Ky's 3 whitewater clubs joined forces to clean up the banks of a favorite Kentucky whitewater stream: Elkhorn Creek in Frankfort. Armed with 450 trash bags and two large dumpsters donated by the Cabinet for Natural Resources, two dump trucks furnished by the Franklin County Road Work Department, and a "deuce and a half" truck furnished by the National Guard, the volunteers went to work.

Some canoes were tied together in pairs joined by 2"-by- 4" cross members and plywood crossmember platforms. These "catamarans" were used by experienced canoeists to float large debris such as refrigerators, stoves, washers and scrap metal.

Other volunteers went by car to river access points and began bagging trash up and down the the bank on both sides. Canoes were used to ferry volunteers from one bank to the other. The dump trucks and some pickup trucks traveled around to the access points every few hours to collect trash as it accumulated. The highlight of the day was when all met at Colstons Lane access point at 3pm that afternoon. With the help of all volunteers, a ton and a half of appliances were loaded onto the National Guard truck, and then a rope was attached between the truck and a 1953 Chevy sitting on the river bank. With cheers the crowd, the car was dragged off the Elkhorn to a centralized pickup point just downstream.

At the end of the long day, most of the "enviornmental engineers" congregated at the "Garbage Tippers Ball", which was sponsored by SAGE Outfitters of Louisville and Kentuckiana Whitewater Outfitters for all cleanup participants. Collection figures totaled 650 bags of garbage and approximately 3 1/2 tons of metal.



**June 2th the BWA needs all hands on deck
to beat the Challenge!**

Rich Lewis

Gage or gauge? AW has the answer February 26, 2018

We were discussing this issue recently as I and others have always spelled river gage as "gauge". But, we had noticed that AW uses the term "gage" on its rivers pages. Here is Mark Singleton's response:

"Here is a little bit of the history on the Guage vs Gage. Frederick H. Newell (who was said to be a very forward-thinking person) met USGS Director John Wesley Powell in 1888. Powell was sufficiently impressed to make Newell the first full-time appointment to the Irrigation Survey, which Powell created to investigate the potential for dams and canals in the western U.S.. No practical technique for obtaining systematic daily records of discharge existed at that time, so a training camp known as the "Camp of Instruction" was set up on the Rio Grande at Embudo, New Mexico. The Camp of Instruction began the task of developing water measurement methods that are widely used by the USGS today.

During the next ten years, Newell continued to play an important role in the development of streamflow gaging techniques and methods. Around 1892, Newell is purported to be the person responsible for the adoption of the USGS spelling of "gage" instead of "gauge". Newell reasoned that "gage" was the Saxon spelling before the Norman influence added a 'u' to the spelling. Robert Follansbee (A History of the Water Resources Branch, U.S. Geological Survey: Volume I, From Predecessor Surveys to June 30, 1919 -- page 66) speculated that Newell might have also been influenced by the adoption of "gage" in the Standard Dictionary (the first dictionary produced by Funk and Wagnalls. It came out in 1893 or 1894, so there's a bit of conflict in dates).

Newell went on to become the first Chief Hydrographer of the USGS.

At AW we follow the USGS standard for the term 'gage' to measure flows."

Brent Austin

February 28, 2018

Thanks for the history! However, it seems that "gage" should be the proper spelling since it rhymes with "cage" and "page"! Evidently somewhere down the line someone added a "u" to the spelling although it is silent and has no real function or use. Seems like the added "u" actually is more of a French influence than English. When people from other countries try to learn English language this is what is so confusing! So, should Gauley be pronounced "gaw-ley" or gay-ley". Just saying! :-)

B. J. Kayak bum and river guide

Must have originally been 'Golly' after they made their first descent. Then they tried to spell it.

Dallas

Tattooed and Retired

March 01, 2018

In research of word "gauge" or "gage": "Gauge" is derived from French word "jaugue", and was used in at least the 13th century. "Gage" was a subsequent spelling. Webster dictionary shows word origin as "norman/French".

B. J. - kayak bum and river guide

March 04, 2018

"Gage" also has a long history, but has had several different meanings throughout the centuries. It at least goes back to medevil jousting and then meant a "pledge", and later had to do with "debt". However, either of those meanings is never used anymore and considered obsolete! Sometimes later perhaps in 1700 or 1800's "gage" became an alternate spelling of "gauge". This was used even more so in the early United States, and probably is the reason the usgs adapted that spelling in the 1800's. Either spelling today seems to be acceptable and has the same meaning - "to measure".

B. J. - kayak bum and river guide

Very wet in TN

March 01, 2018

I have received over 3 inches of rain in my gauge in the last 48 hours on top of an already saturated ground. Rain is supposed to taper off and we should have clear skies and warm for this time of year temps. I suspect almost everything on the plateau and Smokies will run this weekend. I have commitments on Saturday but Sunday looks good.
Chief

Yeah Chief, I have 2.3 inches in my rain "gauge" and when I went by the Greenbrier today around 11:45 the river "gage" was 3.7 and rising. Saw some folks from Washington state firing up the Ramsey's at an impressive level up there. It will be in tomorrow and Greenbrier will still be in the high 2s I bet. Heard Big Creek was over 4' late afternoon. Little peaked at over 6' and will be in all weekend for sure.

My plan is to stay around the north east side of the Park. Clay is coming to do Tremont or Ramsey's tomorrow, I think Wes and Karen are coming in tomorrow as is Todd Harbour and Leslie. Some other paddlers from Bryson City may also camp at Nippur this weekend and I am hoping to see the

Mellos. They inquired. Probably others will show up. Should be a fun filled weekend of boating, making food, hot tubing, boating, probably a bit of drinking, etc., and boating. Oh, we will probably sleep some too. My door is open to paddlers. You know who you are. Yes, I am inviting you. You know how we roll down here in the clean water in the Park. We stomp boofs, sippin on gin and juice, laid back, with our mind on our boating and our boating on our minds.

Tell Hugo to come. He won't but he might say he will again...

Brent

For those of you that come, I am thinking of doing a pot luck Saturday night - surf and turf. I have some steaks and scallops I can throw in the mix. Someone else bring stuff. And bring some Tequila. That always works good after dinner. Man, it is a great sunny weekend shaping up with tons of water. Everything here will be a go for a few days. Sunny and 60 both days.

Brent

March 02, 2018

I will probably see you on Sunday
Chief

Brent,

Sounds like a bada\$\$ smokies weekend is shaping up. I can't make it over that way myself, wish I could, but need to be close to home to keep one eye on these kiddos, I'll my other eye on some boating. Chattanooga got about 4" of rain Wed/Thurs and things will be kicking over here all weekend and into next week even. I'll be getting out on North Chick with Tmonty and some others on Saturday if anyone wants to join.

May try to get some Suck laps once it comes down a little. Stay safe out there brethren.

Boles

**Need a better name for "Battle of the Breweries".
Any ideas?**

March 24, 2018

Hi All,

"Battle of the Breweries" which will be a clean up on the Elkhorn in early May and an annual event involving different industries every year with the goal of introducing people that don't normally get involved with conservation issues to the Elkhorn to it's beauty and its problems. I had originally named it "Battle of the Breweries" and was going to come up with a different name every year based on the industry. Problem is, there's already a clean up on the South fork of the Elkhorn called "Battle of the Breweries", so we need a better name for this event. Already heard one calling it the "Trash Bash" which I kind of like but it might be a good idea to come up

with a name that says something about the fact that different industries will be involved. This year it'll be the breweries, next year I was thinking about governmental agencies. (Love to get some Mayors out there and maybe the Governor, who knows). So what do you think? All ideas for a name for this event are welcome, good, bad or "funny as hell but we can't call it that.

Bob Larkin

Boating this weekend 2/24 to 2/25

February 23, 2018

My plan is to go to the Cheoah tomorrow and day trip. Supposed to rain hard Sunday morning so I am hoping for Greenbrier or Big or the Little that day and Monday...

Brent

February 26, 2018

Good time on the Cheoah even at 600 cfs reduced flow. Bear Creek Falls was more technical for sure. Still fun. Had a great time with Rob Watts and Sarah Leach who came and stayed Saturday night and then got up and ran the Meanies, Sinks, Eddy Out down to the Elbow before scooting back north. Great day and weekend. Sounds like lots of action and excitement up in KY this weekend. Hope some trip reports will come out that are not just on the Facey dealio. Me nor Spangler go there (I don't think Dandy does...) and if they get posted here, they are more likely to end up in the Bowlines.

Still sprinkling here, with .3 inches this morning in a nice soaking drizzle and light rain. More coming later in the week so the weekend should be rocking around here.

Brent

Another great NPFF

February 20, 2018

I have waited for someone to post what a good NPFF it was this year, so I guess I'll be the first! In February it is so nice to see ALL my river friends gather. Perhaps, that is one of the best things about the Npff! Anyway, the videos seem to get better every year. The Russell Fork history was special, and as a war veteran I really loved the " Beyond Desolation " video by the Iraq war veteran that said how the rivers can change a life, as they have mine! Great to see "newer members" step up and take over as coordinator's of the event- good job!

B. J. - kayak bum and river guide

Great job by all volunteers to pull together another great event

Linda Tribble

It was a great NPFF and most things seemed to go off without a hitch, which is unusual, almost unprecedented in the

history of the event. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

Hanley Loller

February 25, 2018

Great job Jim and crew. Like Hanley said, it seemed to pretty much go off without a hitch and I know Megan and I both really had a great time. Although I've enjoyed the race very much over the years it was really nice paddling Glens with so many great friends instead. Jim, you put a ton of work into this event and it really showed. Good job my friend, you really hit it out of the park.

Bob

Agreed, Great job Jimmy...although I am not sure what you said, what you did was great...

SYOTR,

Brent

Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA Jan/Feb Meeting Minutes not available in text form at the moment, but can be accessed at:

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

They will be included in next issue of Bowlines

Manage Your BWA Membership From Your iPhone

GET THE WILD APRICOT APP FOR MEMBERS

Android App Hopefully Coming Soon

Description

Bluegrass Wildwater Association members can stay in touch with their fellow boaters. See a list of upcoming events and even register for them. View the details of events you've signed up for and find other members of the organization and contact say, let's go boatin!



Don't be a BOAT NEGLECTOR !

**If you have more than one boat and lots of extra gear,
let them out to play at the next BWA Clinic!!**

**There is a big brother or big sister eagerly awaiting to meet a new friend...
don't disappoint them!**

**Let Vice-President Mike Daugherty know you have gear
that wants a buddy for the weekend of the Clinic!**

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