

# BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Jan/Feb 2019

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*In our own words.....*

**The 36th National Paddling Film Festival 2019**  
 February 15-16 Buffalo Trace Distillery, 113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort, Ky  
 Featuring guest speakers Diane Brasuell and John Grace!

**Friday Night Speaker: Diane Brasuell**  
 Diane Brasuell is both a paddler and a wilderness triathlete who currently paddles for Klamath and Jackson. She started triathlon as a teenager after going on annual surfing trips with her family growing up.

**Saturday Night Speaker: John Grace**  
 With the continued passion for whitewater paddling and being John Grace has really been doing what he loves since 2005. In 2006, John led the team event paddler with National Geographic's Adventure of the Year.

From 2009-2013 John Grace, paddling coach of Precision Paddlers, is best known for his whitewater triathlon, the series, Launch Your Magazine. After nearly a decade and 37 courts, 254000+ he has started a great one.

Starting in 2015, John Grace became president and owner of Adventure of the Year. He has spent years on an international film festival, John's video series, Launch Your Magazine, is a best challenge that one has to take behind the scenes of Adventure of the Year and paddling's excitement.

**Being A 60 Year Old Boater**

The shoe is on the hand it fits, there's really nothing much to it  
 Whistle through your teeth and spit / loose it's alright  
 Oh well, a touch of grey kinks suits you anyway  
 And that was all, I had to say and it's alright  
 I will get by  
 I will get by  
 I will get by  
 I will survive

*Susan Harris  
 Dennis J. Barry / Robert G. Smith*

Dude! I have been doing serious boating for half my life now. I just turned 60 on January 13, 2019. High School Class of '77. Eisenhower was Prez when I was born. I remember the 20th anniversary and was almost 50. kinda sorry for this kid he called my mom to see how she felt about it. Plus she said, (I'd) sent me sixty bucks because he and his wife have no idea who to get me that I either don't have already or want. Cute gift. I got the nomenclature. Then I thought about boating like usual. But age, it seemed flavored my thoughts. Sixty. Hmmm, really? Well hell, let's go to the Little and run the Sinks and show on it. Call! Figure out what else I really would like to do.

I wrote an article about boating at 50 in the Bowlines and now ten years have passed. I have slowed down, for sure. But I got a run on the Wabigoon this past spring. A number of days on the Upper Wabigoon. Several Chocoma runs. I am still on the Upper Gabeau and I was thinking about the fact that this past fall, I may have been the oldest kid at the Rosell Park River on Grand Canyon. Four Grand Canyon runs. I was the oldest kid on the Grand Canyon.

**Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...**  
 From the Bowlines March/April 1997 Issue

**Its Official!**  
**The 1997 National Paddling Film Festival Winners.**  
 It's official, the spots are in the East and West Festivals. Congratulations to the winning entries of the 1997 National Paddling Film Festival from the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, the Kern River Alliance, American Whitewater, and the American Canoe Association. 150 videos from across the nation and west competed, with these 5 voted the best of the best! Thanks to all of the volunteers, sponsors and artists that flowed together in projects over \$4000 for waterway conservation and help promote the latest and greatest in paddling videos and images.

**The Adventures of Johnny Utah: River Stories From A Different Point of View** An adventure in storytelling and an inquiry into "why" people float. By Paul Brinkman & Tom DeGut of Atlanta Georgia.

Johnny Utah designed the imagination of both the East and West adventures who granted a fast pace by visiting the coveted "Erie Basin". These two stories told in one volume, national glowing reviews from the 12 Representative judges as well. The Judges panel, made up of recreational boaters representing states from across the nation, converged on Lexington Ky and beautiful CA, introducing their love for adventure conservation by seeing and seeing at 10 professional artists. What they saw impressed them. They honored Johnny Utah with the "Best of Show" professional division award. Paddling scenes from a different point of view of the audience's "Johnny Utah" were dramatically presented by a local insurance agency. When the visual whitewater movie, presented the "best" and philosophy of the movie figure of Johnny Utah and those who knew him. The video returned along scenes from all of the judges and was awarded a perfect 10 in all categories by one. Clear, engaging, different and fun. The Adventures of Johnny Utah is a must see video.

**Beyond The Missionary Reaction by Rich Quinn of Versailles, VA.** took the "Best of Show" amateur division with a hilarious and passionate entry. The panel of 13 judges comprised of professional paddling filmmakers, media and manufacturer representatives voted it their top choice in the amateur competition. "Best" entry slogan made hard and "and" - has become that don't take themselves too seriously. "Beyond The Missionary Reaction made real all who see it. Hazy.

**Remains: The Art of Precision Paddling** by John Davis & Kirk Ford of Performance Video Design. Complete captured a bit in the "Instruction & Safety" professional category. In addition to winning its fully contained category, this outstanding instructional entry scored second overall in the crowded professional division. "Remains: The Art of Precision Paddling" immediately exposed new skills to those who (paddling, McNeill's, Schenck and Schenck's Creative computer animation, combined with other video, explain and simplify these fun, new river trip tactics. Experienced filmmaker by Karl Ford, Scott Skyles, Chris Spiekul, Matt Lyle, and others shared out this video in every whitewater paddler's collection.

**Sleep Creepers at Ery Meadow Creek** by Vincent Oski & Joshua Oski with video by Chris Hubbel and featuring music by Phyllis Jo Calder Price Park, CA. This visually stunning winner of the "Recreational & Down" amateur category combined one setting with dramatic video of Southern California's magnificent Dry Meadow Creek.

**Paddle On** Submitted by Ron Chase, President, Ohio Canoe Club, Kinross, TN. Cleared paddling scenes on streams in Tennessee combined with music featuring Ohio's own Paddle Shopper named Ohio Canoe Club the "Big" "Clay" amateur category award. Canoe and kayak riders on the Obed, and Toccoa Lakes. "I enjoyed the open boat damage" - interesting footage - some great shots...

**Best Paddling Image Award** as picked by the 1997 audience in Kentucky and California went to Joe Lavello of InterVideo, Ohio with his "standing near suffer" side.

**It's Places Like the Obed that Mystify and Intrigue Me**

Found myself exploring the Obed watershed once again, and just like every single time before, I was not disappointed.

It's places like the Obed that mystify and intrigue me.

They inspire me to visit places that eyes rarely see.

And it has become an unending passion to find myself immersed in these transient places often, as they change with every flow and every season.

*Michael Daugherty*

# 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>

## Pool Canoe/Kayak Roll Sessions are on hold till new location is found.

For date updates check:  
<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event>

Learn to wet exit, bow rescue, and roll.

Meet BWA members and be involved.

Wash your boats, inside and out, before arrival.



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

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

#### Issue Archive:

[http://www.surfky-bwa.org/html/bowlines\\_arcN.html](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.surfky-bwa.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)



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

### Club Officers 2018-2019

President	Mike Daugherty	859-554-8489
Vice-President	Hanley Loller	859-954-2025
Treasurer	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Secretary	Dot Edwards	859-351-0132
Safety	Hanley Loller	859-806-9843
Program	Sam Arnold	859-983-4475
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Joe Wheatly	859-361-0892
Conservation	Sandra Broadus	859-333-0208
Film Festival Coordinator	Ben Mudd	859-230-4763
Equipment Coordinator	Sarah Leach	262-751-4476
At-Large Member	Karen Payne Gill	812-221-5514
Membership Coordinator	Brian Storz	859-351-0132
Past President	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289

### 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](mailto:DonSpang@aol.com)



### About the BWA's Bowlines

The Bowlines has been a unique record of the BWA and its members. Unique in that it has been more than a listing of club activities and general information about paddling and related issues. When you read Bowlines you read about each of us and what we thought and did over the years. Members have contributed articles not only about paddling, conservation, and the club, but also stories crafted with humor, imagination, and the spirit of enthusiasm of life and enjoyment of each other. These are only a small portion of the many articles worth rereading. There have been songs, poems, soap operas, jokes, cartoons, wedding announcements, birth announcements, and unique trip reports among all the issues. Not what you might think you would see in a whitewater club newsletter.

We owe a thank you to all the newsletter editors that spent countless hours preparing each issue. To all you club members a big BWA hand for your contributions. Please keep it up! Now dig in and enjoy old memories or chuckle at the amusing stories, poems and pictures...

# The 36th National Paddling Film Festival 2019

February 15-16 Buffalo Trace Distillery, 113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort, Ky

Featuring guest speakers Diane Brasuell and John Grace!



Friday Night Speaker: *Diane Brasuell*

Diane Brasuell is both a medical doctor and a whitewater kayaker who currently paddles for Kokatat and Jackson. She started kayaking as a teenager after going on annual rafting trips with her family growing up.

Her love of rivers and mountains helped guide her path of accepting admission to college at UC Davis, where she met her future husband and travel companion, Daniel. Together, they have gone on numerous international kayaking adventures while also pursuing Diane's career choice of medicine. Throughout everything, keeping a healthy work-life balance has always been one of Diane's main goals.



Saturday Night Speaker: *John Grace*

With the combined passion for whitewater kayaking and filming, John Grace has made his living doing what he loves since 2003. In 2006 John and his team were awarded with National Geographic's Adventurer of the Year.

From 2006-2010 John Grace, operating owner of Penstock Productions, is best known for the whitewater kayaking film series, *Lunch Video Magazine*. After nearly a decade and 37 issues, *LVM* closed its last chapter of a great era.

Starting in 2010 John Grace became president and owner of *AMONGSTIT* Inc. Having spent years as an independent film producer John recognizes hurdles a filmmaker faces; it is these challenges that are the force behind the creation of *AMONGSTIT* Inc and particularly *amongst.it*.



## Weekend Schedule for NPFF Activities

### Friday

5:00 PM – Doors Open/Beer Starts Flowing/Films Start  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM – Chili contest drop off\*  
6:30 PM – 7:00 PM – Chili contest judging  
7:00 PM – Chili served for dinner  
8:00 PM – Guest Speaker: Diane Brasuell  
9:00 PM – Films Continue  
11:00 PM – End of Day 1

\*All types of chili welcome in contest! Bring your favorite traditional, white, chicken, vegetarian, vegan, or anything else and we'll judge it and serve it! Bring any sides you want yours judged with!

It's time for the 2019 National Paddling Film Festival! Every year in February, a motley crew of dirtbag kayakers, open boaters, single bladders, SUPers, and rafters gather to watch paddling flicks, drink beer, eat food, bid on silent auction items, and catch up with old pals--this all takes place at a bourbon distillery in the heart of central Kentucky.

We throw this big party to highlight the best in paddlesport films and still images and to raise money for organizations dedicated to river conservation and access.

Grab your tickets online early and save some cabbage. Online tickets are \$25. Tickets at the door are \$30. Ticket includes admission for Friday night and Saturday night, as well as beer and a raffle ticket. Last day for early registration is February 8th, 2019.

### NPFF Registration

#### Advanced Ticket For 2019 National Paddling Film Festival – \$25.00

The name and email used to register will be on file at the door to receive your wrist band. Tickets not paid for in advance will be \$30 at the door. Early registration tickets will be available online through February 8th, 2019. A block of rooms have been reserved at Capital Plaza, which is close to the festival venue: [http:// www.capitalplazaky.com/](http://www.capitalplazaky.com/)

**More NPFF info: <http://www.NPFF.org>**

**The 2019 NPFF Volunteer Rally is officially OPEN!!!**

A few changes from last year. One regular volunteer shift will get you 1/2 off admission. Two regular volunteer shifts, or one "Double Credit Shift" will get you in FREE!!! To register, go to <http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-3228997>  
I will be maintaining a volunteer shift grid for easy checking of shift schedules and availability, but it is manually updated, so the only way to see for sure if a shift is open or full is to go to the registration link above. The shift grid is here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11y5wxly-\\_Z\\_yU-h9GgMmvORq\\_eCit6olwp5tnw-VHgl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11y5wxly-_Z_yU-h9GgMmvORq_eCit6olwp5tnw-VHgl/edit?usp=sharing)

If anyone is having trouble registering or needs more information, please feel free to contact me (Hanley Loller) by phone, Facebook messenger, or at [volnpff@bluegrasswildwater.org](mailto:volnpff@bluegrasswildwater.org)

Last but not least, I'm working on some additional volunteer perks for this year, but nothing is certain yet. Thank you everyone in advance and I look forward to seeing you at the festival.

Hanley Loller

### Saturday

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM Bourbon Tour on the Hour  
12:00 noon – Not-NPFF Race Check-in at Elkhorn / AW Acres  
1:00 PM – Not-NPFF Race  
5:00 PM – Films and Bourbon Tasting Start  
5:45 PM – Bourbon Tasting Ends  
9:00 PM – Director Remarks, Raffles, Film Winners Announced  
9:00 PM – Wrap-up Silent Auction Bidding  
9:45 PM – Guest Host: John Grace  
\*\*Silent Auction Pick Up Time TBA\*\*  
11:00 PM – End of NPFF



# Back-Paddling thru the Pages of Bowlines...

From the Bowlines March/April 1997 Issue

## Its Official:

### The 1997 National Paddling Film Festival Winners.

It's official, the scores are in from the East and West Festivals. Congratulations to the winning entries of the 1997 National Paddling Film Festival from the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, the Kern River Alliance, American Whitewater, and the American Canoe Association ! 15 videos from across the nation and world competed, with these 5 voted the best of the fest! Thanks to all of the volunteers, sponsors and artists that flowed together to produce over \$4000 for waterway conservation and help premier the latest and greatest in paddlesport videos and images.

**The Adventures of Johnny Utah: River Stories From A Different Point of View** An adventure in storytelling and an inquiry into " why"... people boat. By Paul Bonesteel & Tom DeCuir of Atlanta, Georgia.



Johnny Utah delighted the imagination of both the East and West audiences who granted it their favor by voting it the coveted "Ender Award". These river stories told in new currents returned glowing reviews from the 12 Representative judges as well. The Judges panel, made up of recreational boaters representing clubs from across the nation, converged on Lexington, Ky. and Bakersfield, Ca. Volunteering their time for waterway conservation by viewing and scoring all 10 professional entries. What they saw impressed them. They honored Johnny Utah with the "Best of Show" professional division award. Paddling scenes from a different point of view of the southeast's Green River were dramatically provided by a boat mounted camera. Within this visual whitewater chaos, streamed the "stories" and philosophy's of the mythic figure of Johnny Utah and those who knew him. The video returned strong scores from all of the judges and was awarded a perfect 10 in all categories by one. Clever, interesting, different and fun, The Adventures of Johnny Utah is a must see video.

**Beyond The Missionary Position** by Rick Gusic of Versailles, PA. took the "Best of Show" amateur division with a hilarious and innovative entry. The panel of 10 judges comprised of professional paddling illuminaries, media and manufacturer representatives voted it their top choice in the amateur competition. With "...easy drops made hard" and "...hair boaters that don't take themselves too seriously..." Beyond The Missionary Position made most all who saw it happy.

**Retendo! The Art of Precision Playpaddling** by John Davis & Kent Ford of Performance Video Durango, Colorado captured a win in the "Instruction & Safety" professional category. In addition to winning it's hotly contested category, this outstanding instructional entry scored second overall in the crowded professional division. Retendo! The Art of Precision Playpaddling innovatively explores new rodeo moves like Whippets, McTwists, Splitwheels and Screwups. Creative computer animation, combined with other visual tools, explain and simplify these fun, new, river play tactics. Experienced instruction by Kent Ford, Scott Shipley, Chris Spelius, Marc Lyle, and others should put this video in every whitewater playboater's collection.

**Deep Creekers at Dry Meadow Creek** by Winston Offill & Joshua Offill with video by Chris Nuthall and featuring music by Private Ale Ceder Pines Park, CA. This visually stunning winner of the "Recreational & Scenic" amateur category combined crisp editing with dramatic video of Southern California's magnificent Dry Meadow Creek.

**Paddle On** Submitted by Ron Crass, President, Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville, TN. Classic paddling scenes on streams in Tennessee combined with music featuring Chota's own Russell Hopper earned Chota Canoe Club the top "Club" amateur category award. Canoe and kayak enders on the Obed, and Tellico Ledges. "...enjoyed the open boat carnage" ...interesting footage... some great shots..."

**Best Paddling Image Award** as picked by the NPPF audiences in Kentucky and California went to Joel Lecaptain of Waterville, Ohio with his "standing river surfer" slide.

Many thanks to all of the generous sponsors of the NPFF who make this event a strong fund generator for waterway conservation, safety and instruction. The Emory/Obed Wild and Scenic River, Kern River, American Whitewater and the American Canoe Association will directly benefit in 1997 from these sponsors commitments to the NPFF. Please remember these names and return to them what they have given to the river through their support of this event.

<b>Dagger</b>	<b>Patagonia</b>	<b>Mountain River Tours</b>
<b>Savage Designs</b>	<b>Headwaters</b>	<b>Northwest River Supplies</b>
<b>Canoe Kentucky</b>	<b>Nantahala Outdoor Center</b>	<b>Powerfood</b>
<b>Wave Sport</b>	<b>Stohlquist Waterware</b>	<b>Lunatic Apparel</b>
<b>New Wave Kayak</b>	<b>Sidewinder Whitewater</b>	<b>River Sports Outfitters</b>
<b>Prijon Kayaks</b>	<b>Salamander</b>	<b>Sports Helmets</b>
<b>Menasha Ridge Press</b>	<b>Mountain Surf</b>	
<b>Phillip Gall's / Perception</b>	<b>Cascade Design</b>	

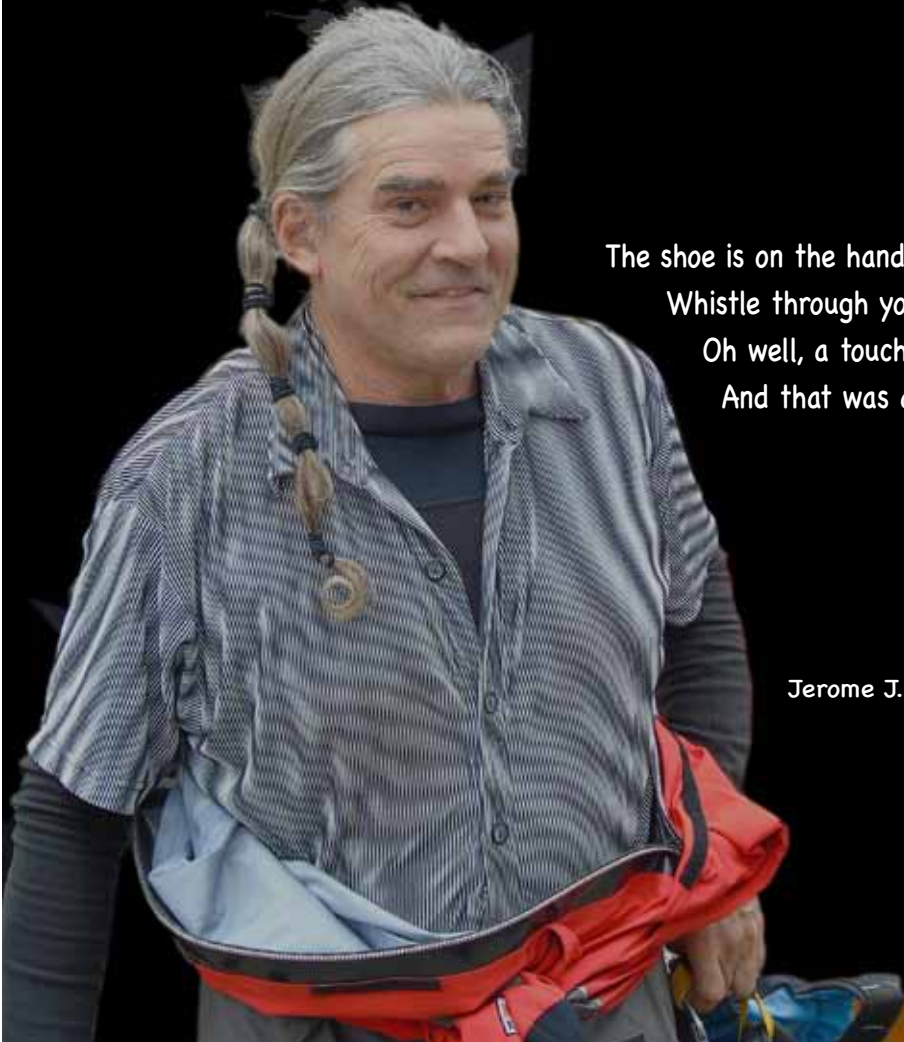
Please be sure to visit the National Paddling Film Festival's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>.

There you'll find the latest about the NPFF, entry rules and how to enter plus what makes the NPFF so great. There are also pages that allow you to get information about any of the hundreds of entries from the Film Festival's past 14 years. You can read a brief synopsis of each entry quoted from the actual program and also obtain the film maker's address for contact. For immediate gratification you can even download the video entries that you like! In cooperation with selected videographers, the NPFF is proud to be offering paddling videos for sale eventually from all 13 NPFFs. Some are rare videos that have never been offered for sale before and unseen publicly since their original premier at the NPFF. At the web site you'll find segments of videos to sample and then order. Remember, the few dollars spent for these videos as well as all other profits the NPFF generates will go straight to waterway conservation the American Canoe Association and American Whitewater. Tell as many paddlers about it as you can. We will soon be adding many more videos for sale including those from 1997; The Adventures of Johnny Utah: River Stories From A Different Point of View, Retendo! The Art of Precision Playpaddling and River People.

A standing ovation to all of the BWA and KRA volunteers that work for the rivers and waters they love to bring off this event. The NPFF continues to bring together the talents of a diverse group of committed paddlers who share the common goal of generating funds for waterway conservation, safety and instruction. Through their energy the NPFF has fostered variety and a higher quality of paddlesport images, naturally increasing the popular exposure of all types of paddlesports, in turn providing education and inspiration for paddling. The energy of people working together, having fun giving to the rivers and waterways completes the natural cycle.

For more information about the 1998 National Paddling Film Festival and how YOU can be a part please contact: Barry Grimes 124 Hilltop Dr. Richmond, KY 40475 606-623-9067 [www.surfbwa.org/npff](http://www.surfbwa.org/npff)

# Being A 60 Year Old Boater



The shoe is on the hand it fits, there's really nothing much to it  
Whistle through your teeth and spit 'cause it's alright  
Oh well, a touch of grey kinda suits you anyway  
And that was all I had to say and it's alright

I will get by  
I will get by  
I will get by  
I will survive

Songwriters:  
Jerome J. Garcia / Robert C. Hunter

Dude! I have been doing serious boating for half my life now. I just turned 60 on January 12, 2019. High School Class of '77. Eisenhower was Prez when I was born. I remember the JFK assassination and was almost 5. Kinda crazy for this kid so I called my mom to see how she felt about it. Fine she said. Dad sent me sixty bucks because he and his wife have no idea what to get me that I either don't have already, or want. Cute gift. I get the numerology. Then I thought about boating, like usual. But age, it seemed flavored my thoughts. Sixty. Hmmm. Really? Well hell, let's go to the Little and run the Sinks and chew on it. Can't figure out what else I really would like to do.

I wrote an article about boating at 50 in the Bowlines and now ten years have passed. I have slowed down, for sure. But, I got a run on the Watauga this past spring. A number of days on the Upper Yough. Several Cheoah runs. I am still on the Upper Gauley and I was thinking about the fact that this past fall, I may have been the oldest kid on the Russell Fork river on Rendezvous weekend. Even Gerald, who is a few years older than me, walked in that day. I am older, barely, than YT and John Regan. Both will be 60 this year. They were both there.



Can't recall if Terry Ratliff was on the river. He is older and probably would have been there if around that day. Plenty of kids older than me have been on the river, before and since, but it was kinda cool as I looked around. At Climax watching the Lord of the Fork race with the river at an old school 1300 + cfs level, I truly wondered if I would still be paddling in to Climax to watch the LOF Race in ten more years. Stay tuned and I will let you know. I certainly plan to in 2019.



### **Nippur Retreat: A sacred land between rivers – Retirement home for old boaters?**

In May of 2000, I bought land a mile away from the Smoky Mountain National Park, as a crow flies, after many years of looking at buying property near rivers the world over. I had looked at Elkhorn City in the mid-nineties around the time we started the race and the Russell Fork River Rendezvous. Not much real estate was moving back then as property tended to just stay in the families there. I briefly considered Colorado. I went to Ecuador paddling in 1997, 1998, 1999-2000 and the last time there hired a realtor to look for and show me property near Tena. Actually priced one on the Jatunyacu River near Puerto Misahualli, close to Tena. Glad I didn't get it. Heard the gold mining companies from China have since tore it all up.

I discovered the property in the Smokies while attending a large drum circle across the street at a place that is now my neighbor and friends. I learned of the property being for sale on a Sunday and wrote a check on Monday. The cabin was built in 2002 and a well was drilled a year later. I have added small cabins and now we have a community around us and plenty of boater friends from all over the world at times, dropping by on a moment's notice to spend the night and/or go boating. Many of you have been here. It is sweet!



**Is this My Beautiful House? How did I get here?  
Same as it ever was, same as it ever was...**



Because it was surrounded by all of these rivers and streams, I gave it the name "Nippur" to honor an ancient sacred city located between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris in ancient Mesopotamia. That is the archaeology buff in me coming out. Love the Bronze Age. My land was sacred to me and surrounded by rivers. The idea for naming the property came from the immediate neighborhood, each of which property owners imaginatively named their tracts. Imagine a Burning Man event with theme named camps everywhere. These are theme named properties that are intentionally adjacent. Of course, I am, and my crowd are, the kayakers and river people. The neighbors think we are weird. Yes, we boat in the winter. It is the main paddling season I explain to their utter astonishment. I also tell them that paddling in the rivers is warmer than snow skiing. That always makes em pause.

When I bought the land, I was already familiar with the river potential in addition to the cool but eclectic neighbors. It started, in an odd way, with Mike Molnar. Now, you may ask, who is Mike Molnar and what does that have to do with me living in the Great Smoky Mountains? Well, nothing in one sense, but in another sense, it flavored my decision to live here. And that is because of one river in particular that is a mere 8 miles away: the Little Pigeon River (Greenbrier Section), between Cosby and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He said it was one of his favorites. So, when I bought the property, I knew of but had not yet paddled, it. I just recalled that Mike Molnar said it was one of his favorites. I checked it out and it was indeed a very awesome busy class III run, water level dependent. I paddle it a lot. I also knew the Pigeon and Big Creek were about 18 miles away and the Little was 25 miles away. I knew that I would get old and slow down even though I was still boating a lot of Class IV-V in the early 2000s.



Mike Molnar said .....

Ok, you say, but still, who the heck is Mike Molnar? Well, let me tell you the story of the young Brent, 31 years old in 1990 and full of absolute passion and a hunger for running ever harder rivers with my friends. And that was mostly Mike Clark's fault. Yes, Clark, not Molnar, but I digress. I was new in the BWA and there were as many open boaters, if not more, adding the C1 folks, than kayakers. It was a rowdy bunch that seemed utterly fearless hurling themselves down frothy wild rivers, with reckless aplomb, it seemed, until you realized they actually were



Brent at Sinks in Winter.

totally in control but having fun blasting each other out of surfing holes on various streams. I really had never experienced a culture that at night involved throwing away the top to a big ole fifth of some kind of bourbon or whisks. And the beer drinkers were legendary as well as good on the river. And none more so than Mike Molnar. Mike was an Open Boater and President of the BWA in the 1990 range. He was loud and present. He was obnoxious and kind. He raved about the Greenbrier. I never forgot it.

Back in the 90s, the world was my kayaking oyster. I never took a vacation out of the country or anywhere in the country that did not involve boating class V. Hugo and others will tell you that I would not go boat much class IV with them back in the early to mid 90s because I



was on the hunt for Class V and V+ action. So, I missed out on a lot of Class III-IV runs that are now more my speed. That means there are still some personal first descents out there for me. For example I still have never been on either Piney Creek or the Citico in Tennessee. Other class III/IV runs I would like to see but it has been a long while. I have not been on Spring Creek near Hot Springs since the early 90s and only did it once. That was quite an adventure and lesson. Again, I digress.

I am way dialed back in what I seek out to paddle. These days I am more content to stay close to my cabin in the Smokies, in order to get laps in on the Little, Greenbrier, Lower Big Creek and the Pigeon. All of these runs are within a 25 mile radius to me. When I built the cabin in the early 2000s in my early 40s, I imagined a time where as I aged these easier runs would be central to my needs to paddle and get exercise without getting my ass kicked periodically on harder runs. And that is indeed what has happened over the past 19 years of owning this property.

In the summertime, I am now often content to simply do laps on the Pigeon. I have not been on the Green Narrows in over 4 years. Nine times out of ten, or better, I have had super clean lines on the Green. But, the last time there I swam out of Zwicks at about a 12" level. My boat went on over Gorilla. I just don't need that shit at my tender age and I certainly do not recover as quick from the occasional Boo Boo and Oops moments out there on harder and steeper rivers. Not saying I won't run it again at 9 or 10 inches when I am feeling spry and all. But, I absolutely stay healthy and in boating shape just fine, without tweeks, by almost daily laps on the Pigeon in the summer, or laps on the Greenbrier or Little in the winter, generally after a full day at the computer doing office work from the cabin. The Pigeon at 10K happens a bit in the winter and is a complete hoot with Grand Canyon size wave trains. (As I type the

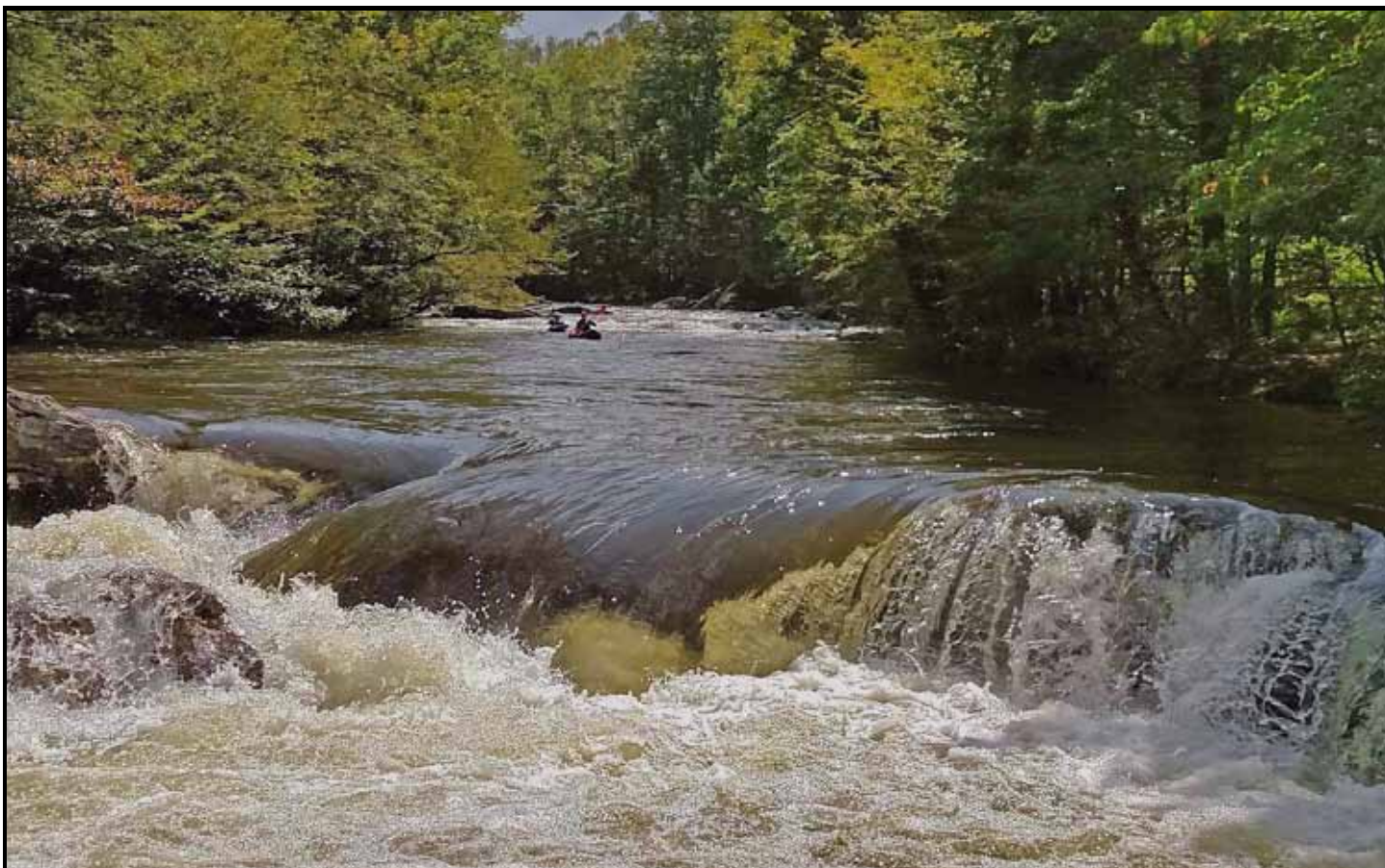




"These days I am more content to stay close to my cabin in the Smokies, in order to get laps in on the Little, Greenbrier, Lower Big Creek and the Pigeon."

Brent & Pals on the Little River near Nippur.





### Brent & friends on the Greenbrier

Pigeon is over 6K, the Greenbrier is around 3', Big Creek at 3.8' and the Little at 4'). It runs every day all winter and is generally always ice free on the coldest of days. Technology has completely freed me from being office bound in Kentucky and allows me to be in Tennessee more and still attend responsibilities. Periodically I drive up to Kentucky to simply go to court or take a deposition and then return to paddle and hole up back in the Park.

By staying in paddling shape on easy rivers, I don't have the tweeks and aches and pains going into the Gauley and Russell Fork seasons. And those runs are the main times, these days, I am away from the Smokies, except for an annual week of rivers up towards the Cheat River Festival or an occasional trip out west like the Middle Fork Salmon or the Grand Canyon. I simply love the simplicity of boating close to the cabin. Super fun class III and IV all winter usually starting in full swing by Thanksgiving and lasting until June often. All close to my hot tub. Plenty of friends drop by to paddle. I get my work done and don't have to drive to rivers. And that is completely where my head and body are at. Lots of paddling opportunities close by and I can live in the woods, surrounded by mountains and streams and get my work done - all at the same time. I love it here. I am definitely marching down life's path, framed by time and experiences, and it has been an amazing and blessed journey thus far. Befitting my lifestyle and need to work and play, I made the right decision by moving to the Smokies to live.

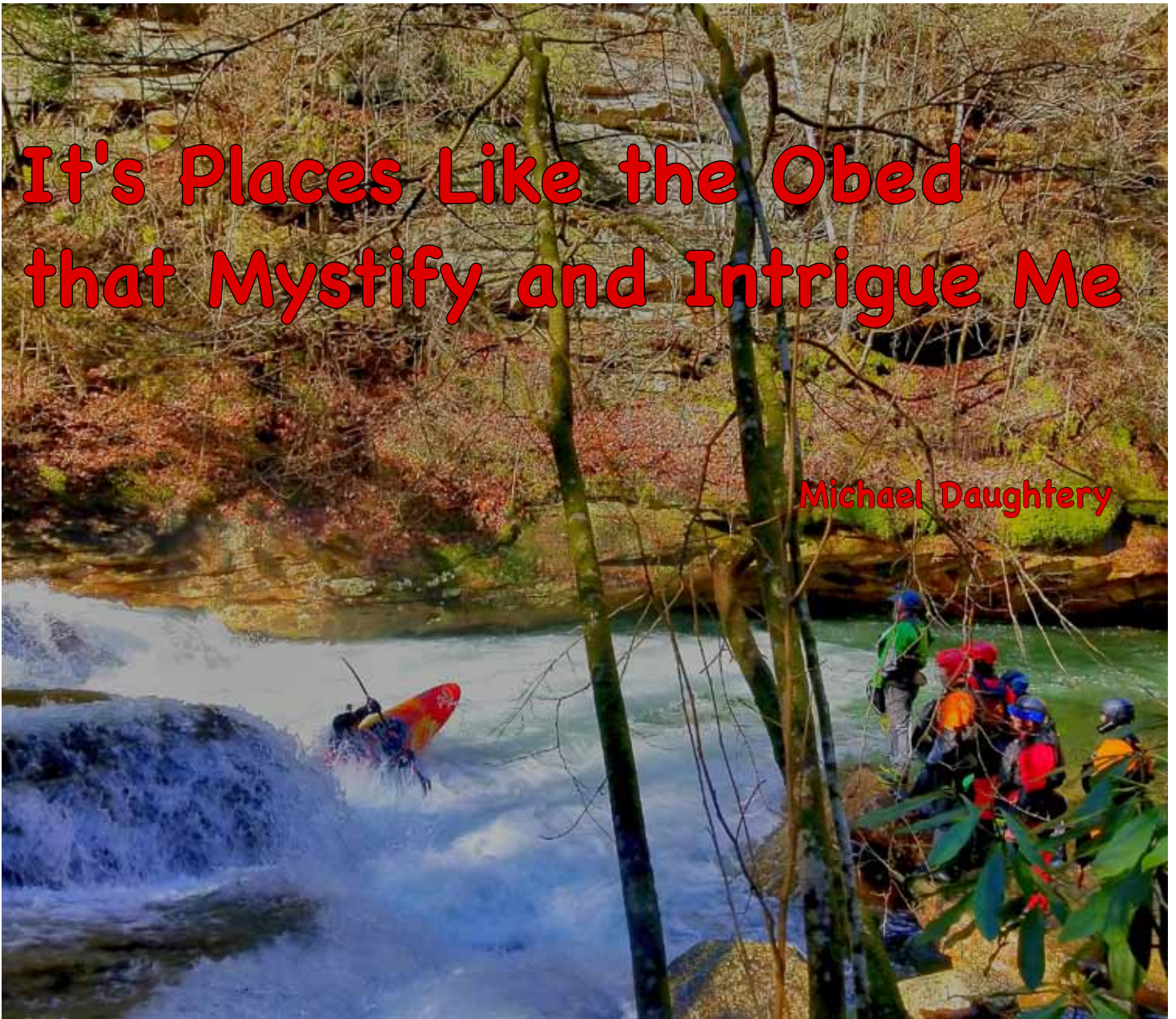
Can ya'll believe that I am going to be 70 in ten years? A mere blip in time, ten years is, looking back. Was 50 really ten years ago? Don't see why looking forward in ten years will be any longer of an experience than the last ten. Ya know? As such, I will enjoy ever more, the mere fact that here at Nippur, I am surrounded by amazing mountains, and clean rivers that will permit me to continue to enjoy life's bounty and find those Zen moments, well into the future. Mind-Body-Spirit, Baby!

See you on the River! Brent Austin



# It's Places Like the Obed that Mystify and Intrigue Me

Michael Daughtery



We explored all the lines on Cave Rapid on Island Creek.

Found myself exploring the Obed watershed once again, and just like every single time before, I was not disappointed.

It's places like the Obed that mystify and intrigue me.

They inspire me to visit places that eyes rarely see.

And it has become an unending passion to find myself immersed in these transient places often, as they change with every flow and every season.





I don't tend to dream much while I sleep anymore. My dreams used to be filled with imaginative out-of-this-world landscapes, flying, and senses of never-ending euphoria.

Those dreams are long gone; submerged in a sea of more exciting memories like the ones formed this weekend. Because even a mind, vivid like mine, could never be capable of recreating experiences as blissful as these.

Jim Cunningham styled the Little Clear.

Brian Storz....don't see guys creeking with hand paddles

Two separate runs, one on Island Creek followed by a personal first descent on the Little Clear Creek. Both rich, both weighing beauty as gold. We had an exceptional crowd of ten that shared beta where needed and kept an eye over their shoulders after each other. I scored a smooth line through a rapid that I've walked around twice before, Compound Fracture. (Smooth except for a small run in with the strainer after the rapid)

And discovering Little Clear Creek set me up for a solid year of new rivers!

Photos by Michael Daugherty

