

BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Sept/Oct 2019

Special Gauley Edition: Packed with stories and articles

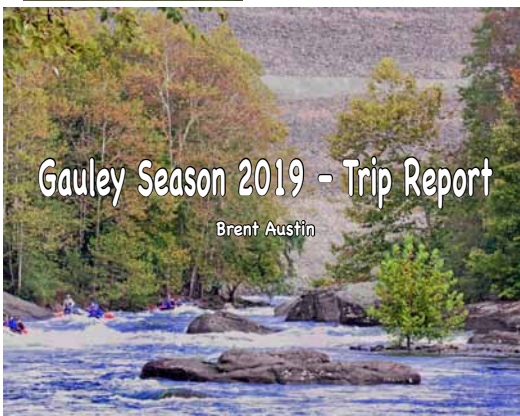
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- Scenes from Gauley Fest 2019
- Gauley Season 2019 - Trip Report
- The Early Gauley Festival Years and the BWA
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- Remembering a BWA Friend, Ed Puterbaugh

In our Own Words.....



Scenes from Gauley Fest 2019



Gauley Season 2019 - Trip Report

Brent Austin

All I know is something like a bird within her sang,
 All I know she sang a little while and then flew on,
 Tell me all that you know, I'll show you snow and rain.
 If you hear that same sweet song again, will you know why?
 Anyone who sings a tune so sweet is passin' by,
 Laugh in the sunshine, sing, cry in the dark, fly through the night.
 Don't cry now, don't you cry, don't you cry anymore.
 Sleep in the stars, don't you cry, dry your eyes on the wind.

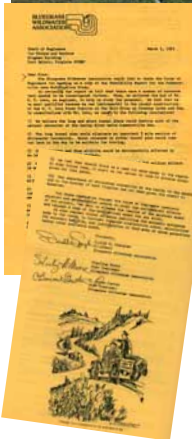
Songwriters: Jerome J. Garcia / Robert C. Hunter

I can't believe it is over! It seems like it just began. Why are the sweet-



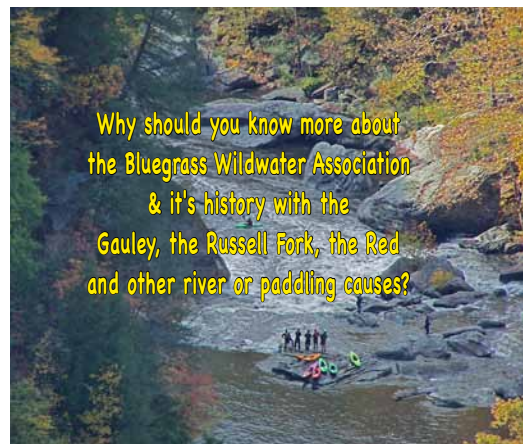
The Early Gauley Festival Years and the BWA

Don Spangler



The BWA went to West Virginia a lot in the late seventies and eighties. Paddling the Cheat, Tygart, Meadow, New and of course the Gauley. I remember my first Gauley run on the lower with Sam Moore and a small group of other BWA paddlers sometime in the summer. As I recall the flow was about 500 cfs, enough to enjoy but not at all intimidating like at much higher levels. We put in at Peter's Creek after a short carry.... this was in the days before other river access on the river was created.

The BWA was active in promoting paddling on the Gauley and do so in conjunction with American Whitewater Association (AW shortened it's name years later) and West Virginia groups. On the left below is a reprint of a letter sent to the Corps of Engineers that was signed by 3 BWA Presidents that dismissed the proposal for creating a diversion tunnel from the existing dam at Summersville to the confluence at the Meadow to produce more hydropower. It would mean that section of the Gauley river would not be runnable like it is today. One early proposal had been to create a huge dam at Swiss and flood the whole gorge. On the right is the reply to a letter from Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford to BWA member Rich Lewis who wrote to him about our concerns over the proposed diversion.



Why should you know more about the Bluegrass Wildwater Association & it's history with the Gauley, the Russell Fork, the Red and other river or paddling causes?

Our history as a club is a legacy we inherent and pass on to others. The BWA has accomplished many things that has been important to those that found a love of rivers and paddling. It was not just conservation and improvement of the condition of rivers & streams but also of the sport of paddling and enjoyment of related outdoor activities.

Not that long ago many rivers had little or no access, there was no easy way to find out if there was enough water in a stream to paddle it. Buying the gear and boats that you needed to run a river was often very limited, so you often would make, your own PFD's, throw ropes, spray skirts and even boat.

So as a group we formed the club and worked on all these things. We had river clean-ups on streams (and not just the Elkhorn and the Red), events to promote safety, raised money and worked with other like minded groups to

Looking Ahead

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

BWA Monthly Meeting

Location can vary

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

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

ACOE Release Schedule for Russell Fork

The corp posted the RF release schedule. They added Friday releases on the first and fourth weekend at 800 cfs. The Saturday and Sunday releases were not changed but the Friday release on the 4th weekend will be 1000. Also, they say the Friday releases are tentative and subject to change.

Here is a link to the corp whitewater release schedule:

<http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wm/?wwsched>

Brent



The BWA wishes to thank Canoe Kentucky for its 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

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

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	Robert Watts	859-554-8489
Vice-President	Hanley Loller	859-954-2025
Treasurer	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Secretary		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



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...



Scenes from Gauley Fest 2019

Photos by Don Spangler







Running The River

US Army Corps of Engineers

Summersville Lake

Why Howell-Bunger Valves?

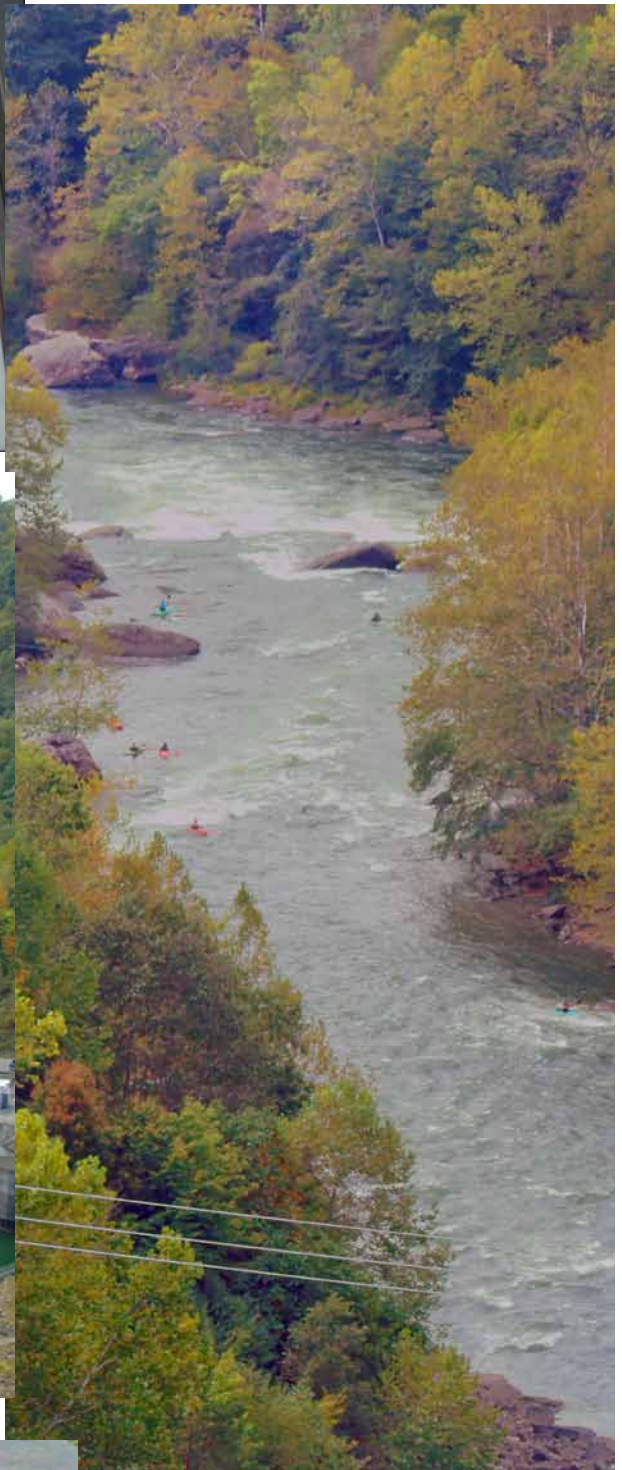
- 1) Only a relatively small force is required to move the valve.
- 2) Excellent flow regulation over a wide range of discharges can easily be obtained.
- 3) Ability to incorporate surge, surtailing downstream encumbrances.

At the time of installation the Howell-Bunger valves were the largest valves of their type. They are now referred to as "float cone valves."

Summersville Lake now harnesses the Gauley River thanks to the dam and the Howell-Bunger valves. Completed on March 22, 1965, the outlet structure continues to control the flow of water from the lake. Shortly after they were put into operation, the Howell-Bunger valves suffered fatigue type failure and had to be replaced. The 1965 valve model was replaced with the new, thicker and stronger 1969 valve model. Two new valves were installed in 2012 and 2017.

Diameter	9 feet
Weight	99,100 pounds 30 tons
Maximum Flow	6,500 cfs (cubic feet per second)
	48,825 gallons per second

* The sleeve is the part of the valve that is in motion when the power screw is operated.





Gauley Season 2019 - Trip Report

Brent Austin

All I know is something like a bird within her sang,
All I know she sang a little while and then flew on,
Tell me all that you know, I'll show you snow and rain.
If you hear that same sweet song again, will you know why?
Anyone who sings a tune so sweet is passin' by,
Laugh in the sunshine, sing, cry in the dark, fly through the night.
Don't cry now, don't you cry, don't you cry anymore.
Sleep in the stars, don't you cry, dry your eyes on the wind.

Songwriters: Jerome J. Garcia / Robert C. Hunter

I can't believe it is over! It seems like it just began. Why are the sweetest things often so in the moment and temporal? Like a flower's bloom, or the glee of puppy, the sweet moments are often "passin' by". Ah, but that is why we live in those moments. So we can hear the Bird Song, before she flies off. And that is where the value of things are: in those special moments...

And so it is with the Gauley season this year. So sweet. But now it has passed. Memories are cherished. Photos do not do justice and trick the brain into remembering only them. We keep coming back because of those moments, lost somehow some ways, but never really forgotten by our unconscious senses.

With three weekends under my belt, I was able to get on the Upper Gauley 8 times, the Lower Gauley once and two runs mid-week before the Gauley Festival on the Upper Yough. All in weather averaging in the 80s for three weeks.



It was Thursday, September 5th, 2019 that Scott Mills and I drove straight to Tawney Farms, close to the take out at Mason's Branch on the Upper Gauley. There was music planned for the weekend and folks were starting to gather there. Seems the Dam Nation camping was becoming a thing of the past with Rangers busting people's chops for benign stuff like dogs off leashes and pot, but completely ignoring the drinking on and off the river. Go figure. Regardless, folks with sense have left camping at the Dam as a relic of the past. Tawney Farms is simply a better location for inexpensive Gauley camping, replete with showers and wash stations.

September 6th, a Friday, Scott and I got on the river for his first time down the Upper Gauley in a number of years for him. We have been boating a lot this summer and all spring and I felt confident that he would do fine. He did, albeit with a number of rolls, but it was a good day. Our gang included Hugo in an Oar rig, T-Monty and Jen in a Shredder, Neil and his girl in a Shredder, Clay and Johnny Law in a Shredder, John Mello, Todd Harbour, Denver Harrod and Alejandro Blanco, from New York. Saturday we did another run on the Upper Gauley with Scott getting tighter with his lines. That day our gang was me, Scotty, John Reagan, Todd Harbour, Matt Delong, Josh Hettich and Jason Hettich. Great day and back at Tawney Farms, an 18 year old singer called Emmalea Deal performed on stage followed by a drum circle at camp.

Our good friend Amelia Taylor was looking for someone to do a Lower Gauley run on Sunday, so we did that. I sure love that cool boof at Upper Mash! We got home Sunday night wanting more and my left shoulder was tweeky, so I was looking for a few days off. Five days off to be exact.

The following Friday, the 13th, I drove back to Tawney, this time with my friend and neighbor, Jewels, riding with me, and Scotty meeting us there. Our plan was to stay the week and end up at the Gauley Festival. We met up with Leland and Andria Davis as well as Suzie Jacques at Tawney Farm that evening. John Mello was there with some folks he was taking down in a raft. Saturday the 14th was Hugo in an Oar rig, me, Leland, Andria/Jewels, Scotty, Suzie Jaques and Mark Singleton. Jewels swam Insignificant and through the Box at Sweets. Sunday was me, Scotty, Suzie, Graham Seiller and Mark Singleton. Monday it was Graham, me, Martin Holsinger (from Richmond), Clint Shiavone, Jonny Burnett in S1 and then off to the Yough and Reagan's yard for camping.

Tuesday on the Yough was me, Reagan, Martin, Clay Warren, Alejandro and some others. Reagan had a band plan at his place and there must have been 200 boaters camped and parked in his 3 acre yard. What a hoot. On Wednesday on the Yough it was, me, Reagan, Martin, Clay, Denver, Alejandro, Jim Cunningham (who had a pfd) and Storzee. Thursday was day off and travel to Gauley Fest. We got there early and were the first to set up in the usual BWA/Viking spot just outside the festival.

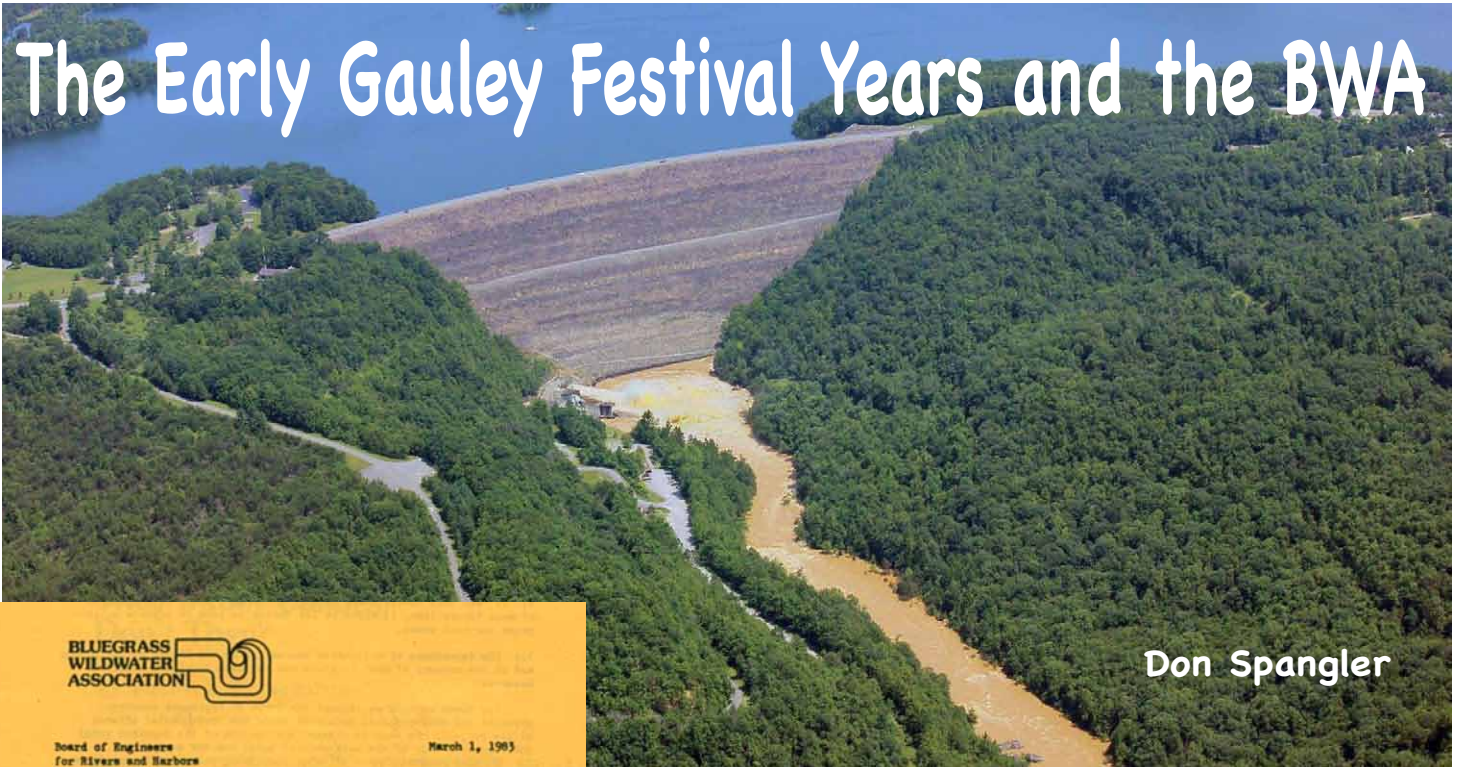
On Gauley Fest Friday it was me, Scotty, Mark Singleton, Neal Dana, Jim Cunningham (pfd), John Gaelick and Paul from Buena Vista, Colorado, all super early and we were off the river by noon. Gauley Fest was crowded, weather was great and there were about 2500 people present at the biggest whitewater party and festival in the world. But I went to bed early because I wanted to put on early again again and beat the crowds. About 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, I caught a ride with the AW folks and put on with Alejandro, Jim Cunningham, John Gaelick. We were at Sweets by 10:45 and chilled there for several hours while Jim and John went on down for a marathon.

Saturday night I stayed up until about midnight checking out the music and the vendors and meeting up with old and new friends. This was my 30th Gauley festival, the first time being 1989. There have been changes, but in the end, it is still all about the river. I was initially not going to paddle on Sunday and recover from a night of partying. But, I just didn't have it in me and I didn't want it to be over so I paddled again on Sunday, this time with me and Scotty kayaking and Jewels R3ing with Charlie and Cam for a nice clean run down the Upper Gauley.

And thus, the Bird Song that was the Gauley in 2019, was over. Sigh. But, I have the Russell Fork season ahead and we finally got some extra water this year. Should be a great season there too.

See you on the river,
Brent Austin

The Early Gauley Festival Years and the BWA

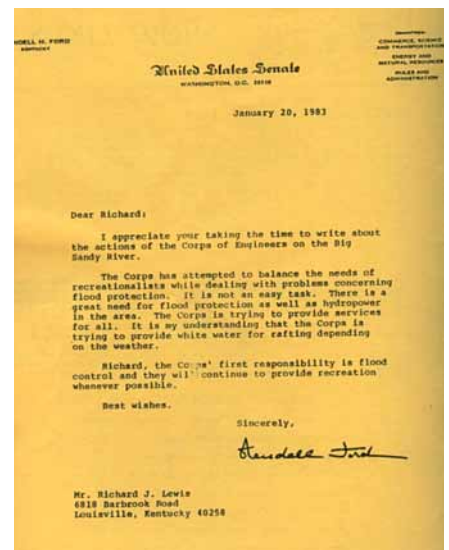
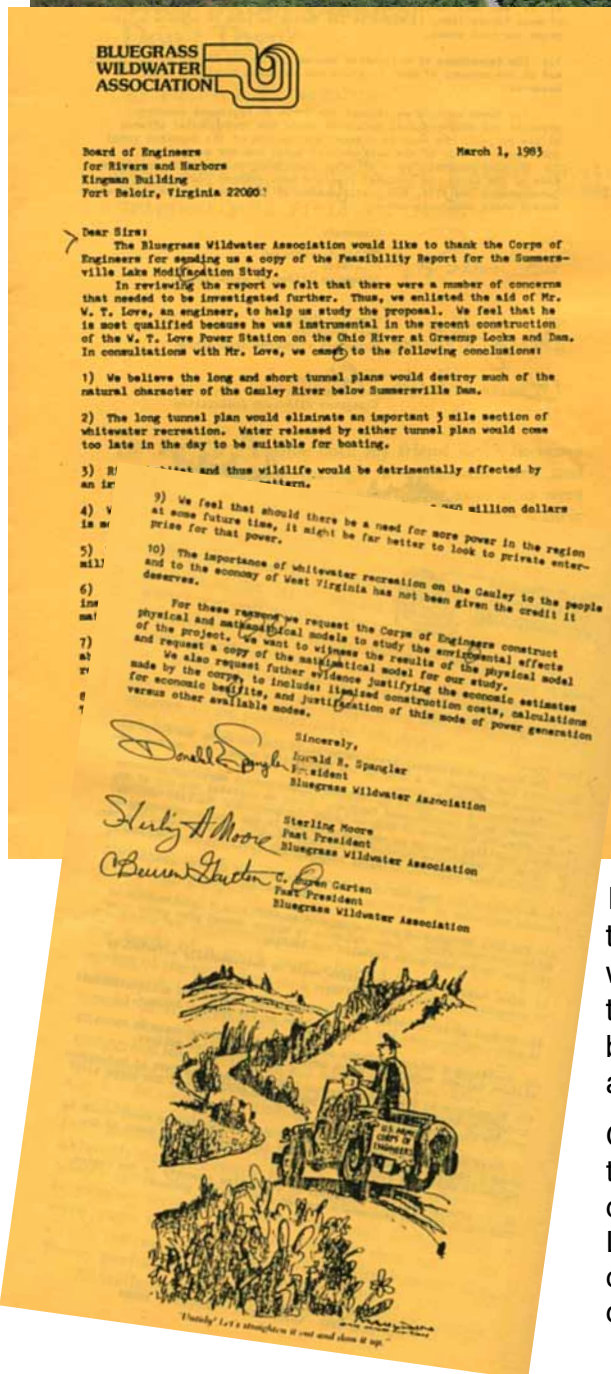


Don Spangler

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On the right is the reply to a letter from Kentucky Senator Wendel Ford to BWA member Rich Lewis who wrote to him about our concerns over the proposed diversion.



According to Charlie Walbridge the first attempt to run the Gauley before the dam was made by John Berry in open canoes in the mid-sixties. The first successful raft run was made by Sayre Rodman in 1966, followed in 1968 by a group of decked boat paddlers.

The dam was dedicated in 1966 and a two year project was finished in 2001 that was to add hydro-electric capacity to the dam. Charlie Walbridge's first run of the Gauley River was in 1971. In the seventies more and more paddlers would head to West Virginia to try out the Gauley. Many boaters would run the lower section by hiking in at Peter's Creek. That is where I and other BWA types would often put in. We would carry our boats and hike for a while along the rails till we came to the creek and then follow a trail down to the Gauley.

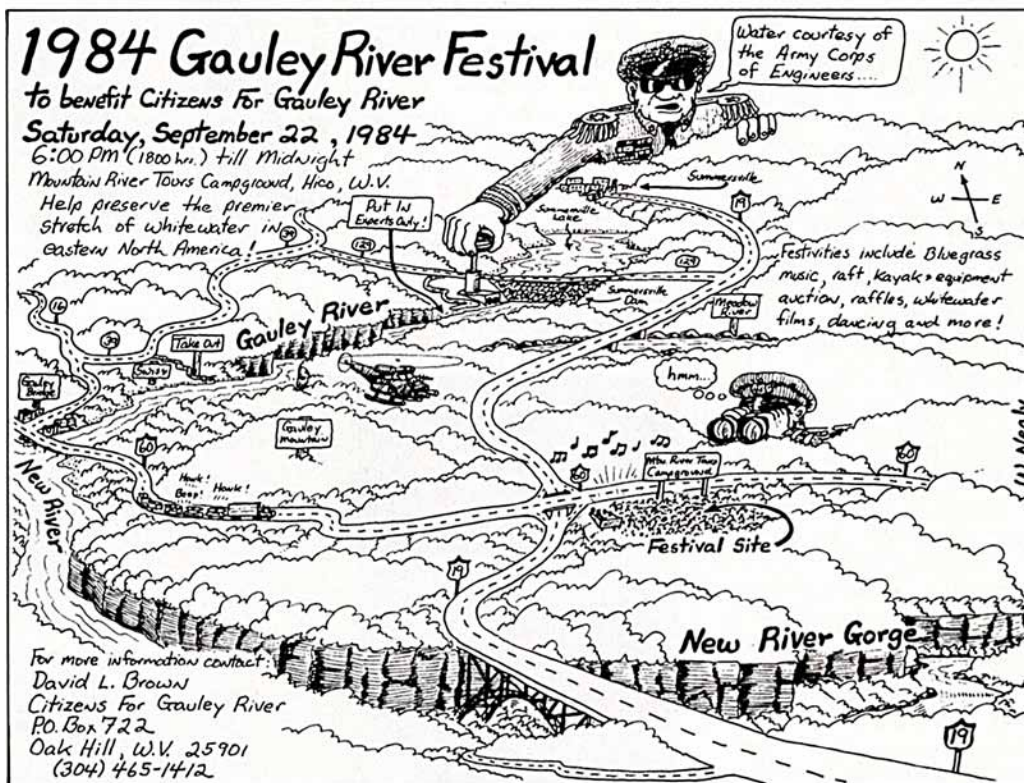
The best I can recall is that it was the later seventies before anyone from the BWA would run the Gauley, though there were a handful of members that had been paddling well before the BWA formed that may have given it a try.

A great many paddling organizations, clubs, and conservationists, especially from West Virginia united in opposition to many of the proposals. The BWA was just one of those voices that added its concerns not long after we came into existence. We were active in supporting the AWA when it started having a Gauley Festival each year. The Festival was not impressive in size and location that first year. But as more and more boaters and rafters would head to West (by God) Virginia in the fall Gauley Fest has truly become quite a success.



Looking for an easier way to get our boats to the Gauley at Peter's Creek sometime in later seventies. By the time we found wood and built it, turned out it did not make it a lot easier or quicker. Left to right: Mike Weeks, Don Spangler, Beuren Garten, John Davis.

Gauley According To Nealy



For who saw a better idea for the Gauley being that of encouraging tourism and paddling the river trips and the requirement of the dam's license was to require 20 days of annual releases it has become an important event for all.

BWA member Bob Sehlinger along with William Nealey at Menasha Ridge Press who were big supporters of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association were also supportive of the AW and the Gauley event.

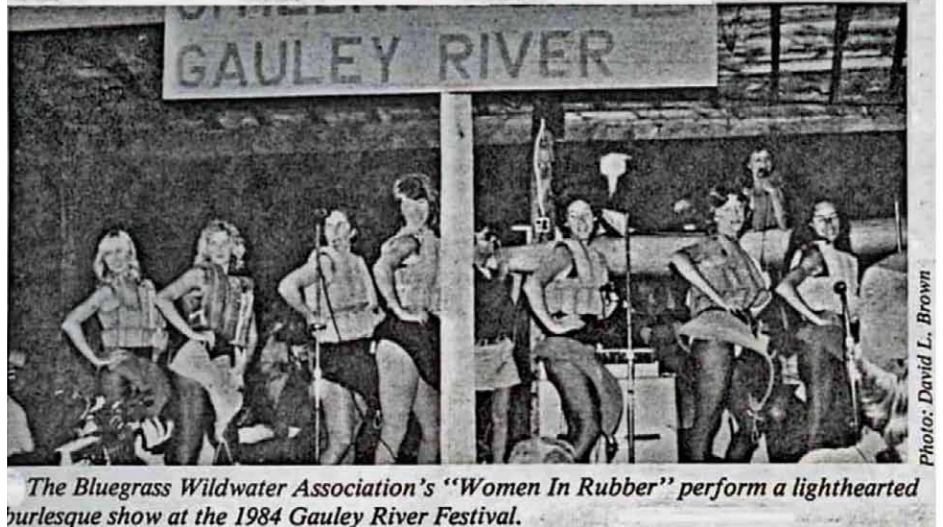
In fact here is image of a Map William did for the Gauley River Festival.

The Bluegrass Wildwater Association supported Paddling on the Gauley during an important time!

From: BWA Bowlines Sept/Oct 1984

Gauley River Festival 1984

Once again the Gauley River Festival, sponsored by the Citizens for Gauley River, was a success. Last fall, boaters from all over the eastern U.S. Flock to West Virginia for the running of the Gauley River. This year has been no exception. The festival weekend was September 22 & 23. The river was bank to bank with kayakers, C-boaters, and rafters -- all enjoying themselves on a beautiful fall day. Wetsuits were not a necessity. Earlier dates for the releases helped with warmer weather, This helped replace the memories of cold, rain days on the Gauley.



The Bluegrass Wildwater Association's "Women In Rubber" perform a lighthearted burlesque show at the 1984 Gauley River Festival.

The festival was held Saturday night at Mountain River Tours Campground. Hamburgers and hotdogs were available: along with all the beer you could drink. BWA's John Davis and Barry Grimes assisted with films, slides and videos shown during the evening. A member of the Army Corps of Engineers spoke to group to tell of the Corps' plan for whitewater recreation on the Gauley - a brave man to face 1,000 boaters.

Entertainment was provided by a bluegrass band and our own **Women in Rubber**. They put in their best performance yet! All in all the festival was a great time. A time to see old friends and enjoy the excellent whitewater of the Gauley River. See you there next year! The Gauley River will continue to have releases throughout month of October.

Letter of Thanks from David Brown Exexcutive Director of Citizens for Gauley River

Dear Bluegrass Wilwater Assn.

While I've got the chance - a breather before the Gauley River Festival - I am writing to thank you all for the support and interest yu have shown for the conservation efforts on the Gauley and the Ocoee.

The southeastern paddling community is strong and maturing. We've all learned a bit about the virtue and power of organization in river conversation. Coordination of effort and the development of an informed active constituenc are essentials to success. The clubs and their active members proved to be important agents on behalf of the Ocoee and the Gauley.

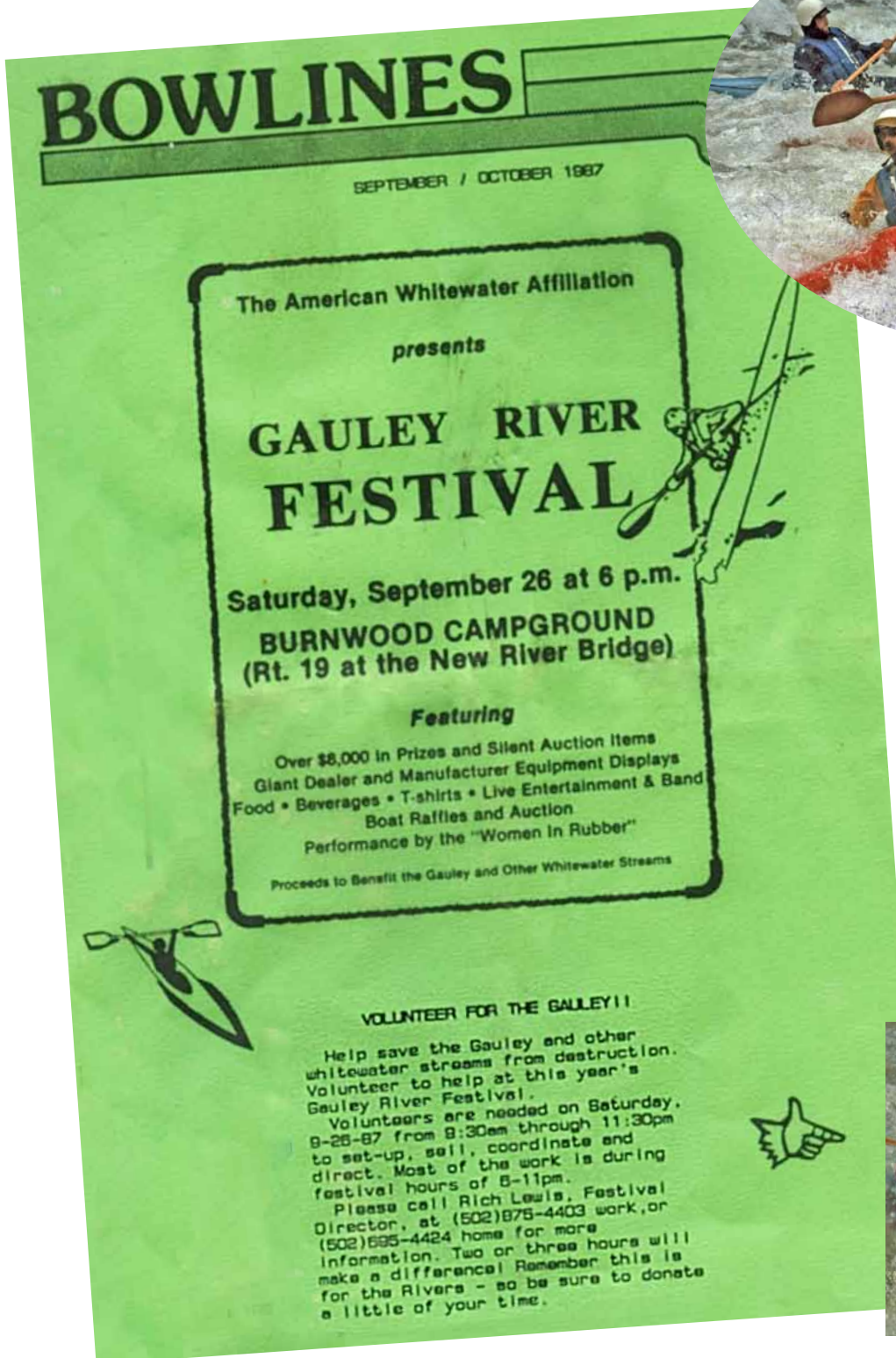
I jus think that those of you in the clubs who joined the equipment dealers, the outfitters, and others as part of the "critical mass" need to be recognized and thanked. Please keep it up!

Sincerely, David L Brown, Executive Director, Citizens for Gauley River, P.O. Box 722, Oak Hill, W.V. 25901



BWA continued to support the Gauley Festival as it grew

From: BWA Bowlines Sept/Oct 1987



BOWLINES

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1987

The American Whitewater Affiliation
presents

GAULEY RIVER FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 26 at 6 p.m.
BURNWOOD CAMPGROUND
(Rt. 19 at the New River Bridge)

Featuring

- Over \$8,000 in Prizes and Silent Auction Items
- Giant Dealer and Manufacturer Equipment Displays
- Food • Beverages • T-shirts • Live Entertainment & Band
- Boat Raffles and Auction
- Performance by the "Women In Rubber"

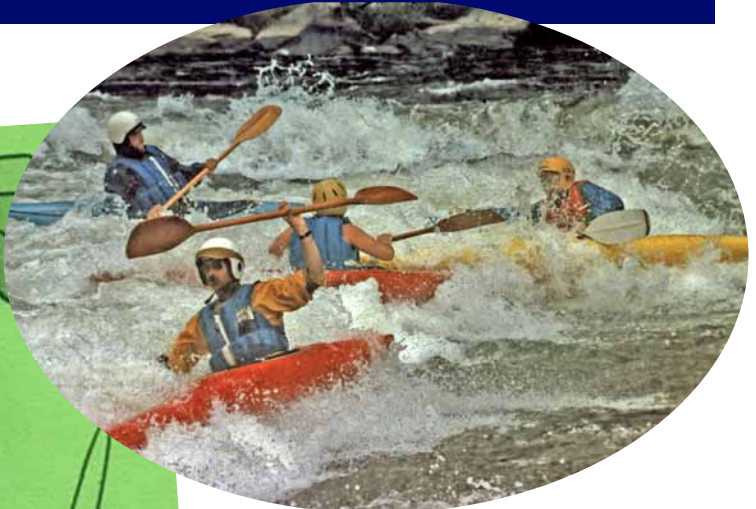
Proceeds to Benefit the Gauley and Other Whitewater Streams

VOLUNTEER FOR THE GAULEY!!

Help save the Gauley and other whitewater streams from destruction. Volunteer to help at this year's Gauley River Festival.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, 9-26-87 from 8:30am through 11:30pm to set-up, sell, coordinate and direct. Most of the work is during festival hours of 8-11pm.

Please call Rich Lewis, Festival Director, at (502)875-4403 work, or (502)895-4424 home for more information. Two or three hours will make a difference! Remember this is for the Rivers - so be sure to donate a little of your time.



BWA members playing at 5 Boat Hole in mid-eighties

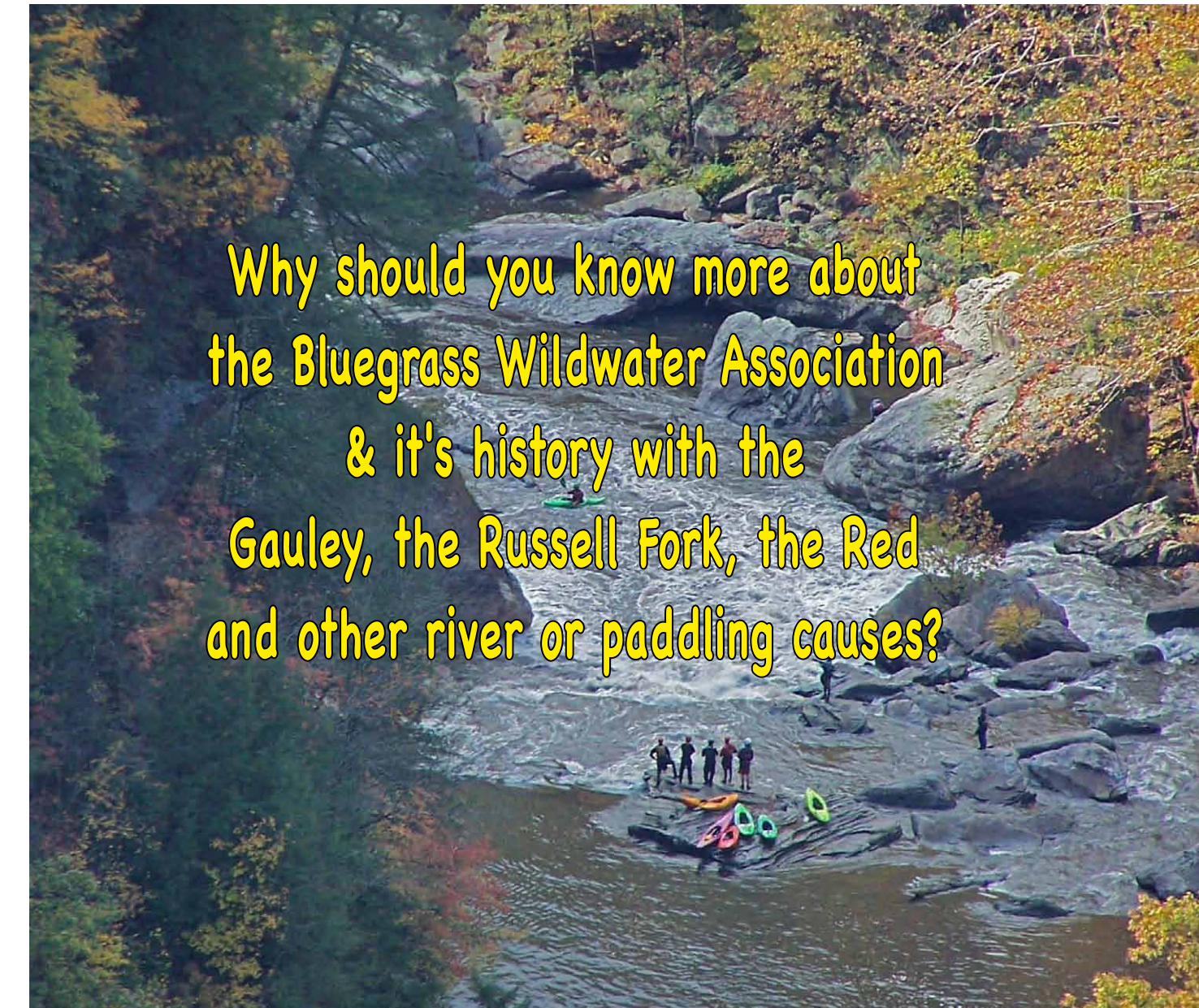
Gauley Festival 1987, the Festival is at Burnwood Campground. The Women in Rubber are still a hit and in demand to perform there.

BWA member Rich Lewis Gauley Festival Director that year and of course if you are in the BWA the Gauley Festival is where you wanted to be.

Rich Lewis was a very active paddler in the Club and was Safety Officer, Newsletter Editor, and BWA River Safety and Rescue Symposium Chair.



Rich Lewis 1983



Why should you know more about
the Bluegrass Wildwater Association
& it's history with the
Gauley, the Russell Fork, the Red
and other river or paddling causes?

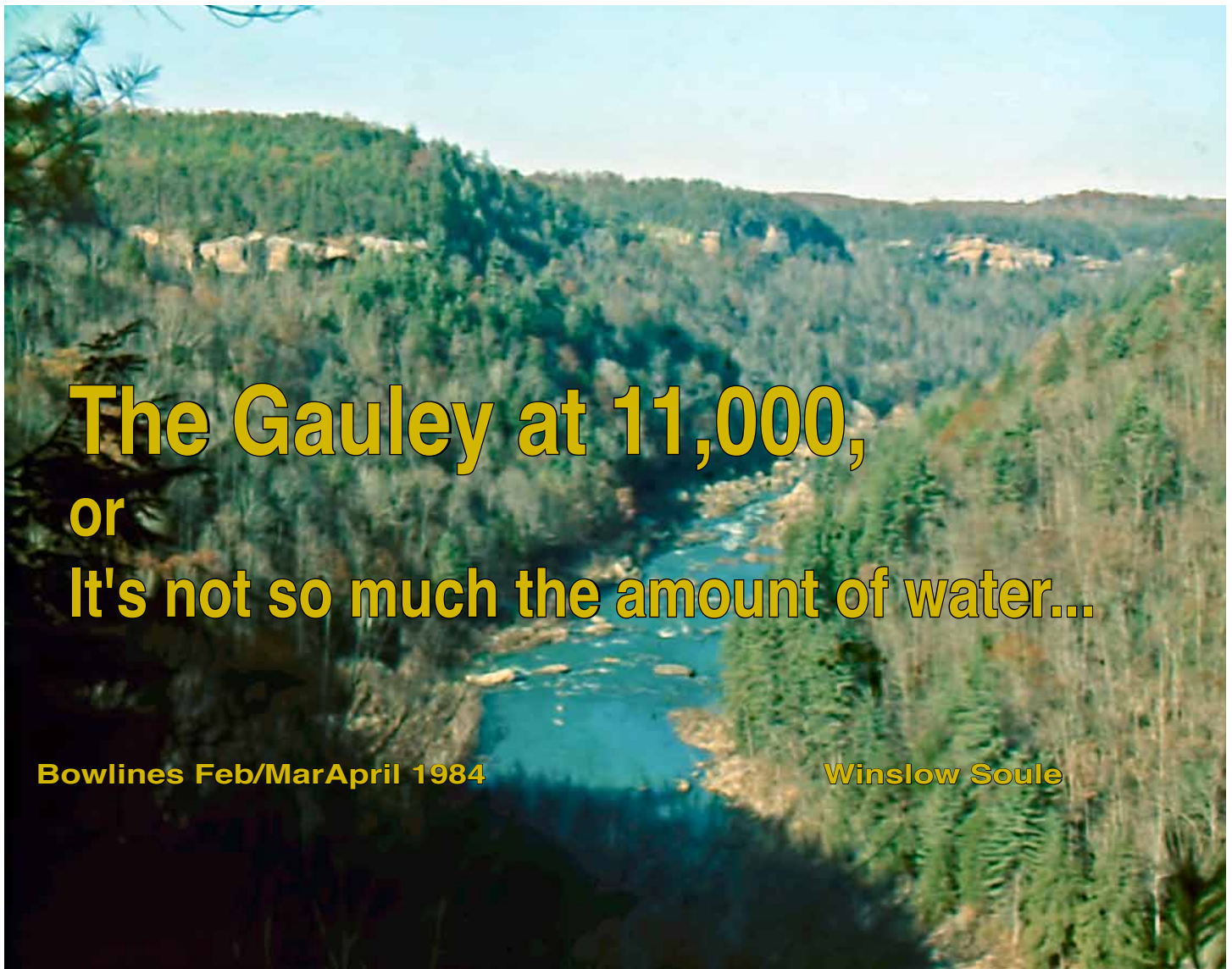
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Not that long ago many rivers had little or no access, there was no easy way to find out if there was enough water in a steam to paddle it. Buying the gear and boats that you needed to run a river was often very limited, so you often would make, your own PFD's, throw ropes, spay skirts and even boat.

So as a group we formed the club and worked on all these things. We had river clean-ups on streams (and not just the Elkhorn and the Red), events to promote safety, raised money and worked with other like minded groups to promote paddling and to conserve the rivers like the Gauley, the Russell Fork, we wanted to paddle. That is why events like the NPFF, the Russell Fork Rendezbous, and smaller events like the clinic and roll sessions became money raisers after they could pay for themselves. That money allowed the BWA to have a lot of impact on what we saw as important goals for the sport and conservation. I have heard some question supporting things like RFR like we always have in he past. I urge for to continue supporting the "bigger goals of the BWA", as we have in the past.

We have succeded in helping to bring major improvements in the sport of paddling and and the rivers we paddle, but the effort must continue and we should continue support all tose thing that we have in the past. It is an important part of the BWA's and our our legacy to continue and pass on.

Don Spangler



The Gauley at 11,000, or It's not so much the amount of water...

Bowlines Feb/Mar/April 1984

Winslow Soule

I decided to hang up my paddle for the year after the last Gauley release in early October. It had been a super weekend with good weather and good company and seemed to be a fitting end to a long and fruitful paddling season. Something really exciting would have to happen to get me out on the river again this year. It did .

As just about everyone knows, West Virginia had a flood in November. While reading about it in the paper the evening of Wednesday the 16th. I got a call from Bob McDonough.

"The Gauley is running 11.000 and they're predicting good weather, are you interested?" Well, that sounded pretty exciting, maybe too exciting. 'It sounds good. Let me see what I can drum up here and I'll call you back.'" Not more than two minutes after I hung up the phone rang again. This time it was Tom Picirilli wanting Bob's address to send him some pictures from our Colorado excursion. Tom agreed that this coincidence might be destiny rather than happenstance and though he would have to break a date on Saturday. One must fulfill one's destiny! Harvey Harris also agreed to go, which made enough for a trip. so Friday evening we set out.

Bob, in addition to being a really nice guy, is one of the best boaters I know. He lives in Athens Georgia and paddles the Chattooga or the Ocoee nearly every weekend. Tom is an experienced

big water boater and has a cool head and a good sense of humor. The three of us paddled together out west and on several other river trips. Harvey while not paddling much this year, felt confident and wanted the big water experience. We had all talked in the past of taking a high water run on the Gauley and the timing appeared to be just right.

We met Bob Saturday morning at Summersville Dam campground. On the way there we noticed that the lake, bone dry a month before, was over its banks at Battle Run, well over normal summer level. The dam was indeed releasing 11,000 cfs and the turbulence at the flumes' discharge was truly spectacular. The rapids at the put-in looked similar to their normal appearance, only magnified considerably. We saw no keeper holes or even dangerous configurations although what normally was a quiet pool around the bend was now a series of standing waves as far as we could see.

The prudent thing to do, we decided, was to scout a bit, then run the lower section in the afternoon. This would give us chance to see the river and decide if the Upper Gauley was really some place we wanted to be the next day. We hiked in from Carnifax to view Pillow Rock and Lost Paddle. Pretty Impressive but still, we figured, runnable.

The Gauley at this level would be considered semi-big by western standards. My admittedly subjective estimate of the height of the largest waves was 12-14 feet. The river doesn't have the flow to generate the really big stuff, boat swallowing whirl pools and such, but as we all know, it's not so much the amount of water you have, it's what you try to squeeze it through that counts!

The run on the lower went well. The air temperature was around 70, exceptional for this time of year: the water was in the mid SO's. Mash was very Interesting, but not dangerous. The biggest water on the run was at Diagonal Ledges. That's the place with that weird ender spot and surfing hole at 2400 cfs. Large waves with hole-ish breaking crests developed and were a blast to drift through. With the exception of Heaven's Gate, the run demanded no more technical skill than at normal flow (class IV). This of course presumes the paddler has a reliable roll and does not choke at the sight of big waves. Obviously, there were some large holes, but these were for the most part easily avoided without much frantic effort. At Heaven's Gate, almost the entire river necks down and flows through the "Gates" but instead of the usual tongue, a nasty ledge type hydraulic develops. We punched through on a slight vee formed in the center, with varying degrees of success. The hole we had expected at Pure Screaming Hell was washed out, but slightly upstream was a now one three times that size, which we gave wide berth. We completed the run in just under three hours. Including some scouting and a good deal of surfing and squirting.

We ran Bob's car down to Swiss that night figuring that no matter what we paddled Sunday, we would take out there. After a pig-out at Bonanza and a "white man's fire at the dam campground, we turned In, dreaming of monster waves and who knows what else.

Sunday at breakfast, we decided the time had come. The air was already warming. There was no fog on the river (highly unusual) and we were well rested and feeling confident after our success the previous day. We launched shortly after eight.

My first impression was how much narrower (read: faster) the upper is than the lower. Replacing all those long pools between drops were waves and eddies, very western in character. Tom later coined the term "flush-drop" to categorize this phenomenon. What follows in an attempt to summa-

alize the changes that took place in the major rapids, and our routes through them.

Initiation: Big waves, not much else. Right down the middle with lots of guts, if you don't scout, because as with many of the drops on the river, you can't see past the first 10' wave!

Insignificant: Much of this rapid washes out. There were a few holes at the top, then just big waves, until the bottom. We ran center most of the way down, then paddled left like crazy to avoid a gargantuan pillow, formed by the house sized boulder on the right. In fact, we found the term "*paddle like hell to the left/right/left/etc.*" becoming part of the way we described many of these rapids to ourselves as we scouted.

Pillow Rock: As at other levels, this rapid looks worse than it runs. Big waves form in the chute, which is no longer split left and right. The pillow rock is almost completely covered with water, and the pour over it creates is magnificent. The most interesting thing from the paddler's point of view, is the huge hole/wave formed by the rock that is usually sticking up in the middle. We determined that this was not a "keeper" and ran right to left. After the pillow one could either run the hole, or one could say a quick prayer and paddle like hell to the left.

Lost Paddle: At Carnifax Ferry, just above the entrance to the rapid, there is a good trail out to the state park. Harvey, who was not paddling poorly but was having rolling problems wisely elected to use this path. His decision was provident, because this proved to be the most difficult and dangerous rapid on the river. The three major drops that make up the rapid run together, to form a half mile long chute housing the biggest waves on the river. Some large, fairly unavoidable holes and a few not so realistic eddies also punctuate the route. In scouting from shore the day before, we could see the moves we had to make down till just above the final drop. It was extremely tough going on the shore (rhododendron forest), so we decided to use an easy looking eddy on the left when we ran the rapid to scout the final plunge. Fortunately, we all made that eddy. When we got out on the bank, we found that the line of enormous boulders forming the last drop, and famous ender hole in Lost Paddle, was now creating a pour over of monstrous proportions. The recirculating boil was easily twenty feet back from the drop, and the hole spanned the right two thirds of the river (about 80' at this point). It would probably have recirculated a semi-trailer and is certainly one of the more awesome configurations I have seen in my travels. The left third of the river was clear (6'-10'waves), however it was well guarded by two nasty looking holes not far above the colossus. Our alternatives seemed to be A: negotiating, with boats, a sea of rhododendron a rabbit couldn't get through, or B: threading a needle between Scylla and Charybdis in freight train current and ten foot waves (with profound consequences in the event of a failure)! A closer exam of the monster revealed a narrow rooster tail ten feet off the right shore and yes, there was a big eddy just above the hole on the far right. Our remaining problem: we were on the left. The ferry over from our scouting eddy, though very difficult, proved to be of acceptable risk and we all accomplished it and the interesting(!) run on the rooster tail without incident. WHEW!

House Rock (AKA Ship Rock): No one mentions this rapid much in the books, however at normal flow I consider it one of the more dangerous on the river. It is mostly just big waves at 11,000 cfs and I mention it only for scale, i.e. there is a beautiful little waterfall coming over the top of House Rock! Tom was so enthralled by this that he failed to hear his companions exhorting him to look the hell where he was going, resulting in a extended hole ride we, and he, will long remember.

Iron Ring: Iron Ring developed two huge hole/waves in the center right chute, the route usually run. Although we decided they were probably not forever keepers, we all ran a rooster tail center left! This would be right into the worst of things at lower levels. For comparison the Iron Ring was only a few inches above the edge of the water

Sweet's Falls: The chaos generated here was phenomenal. Scouting left, there looked to be a tongue through the falls, but we couldn't be sure, without crossing the river and scaling the cliff on the right. We elected to run a route on the far left. That entailed hugging the shore until a particular wave, then, executing a hard, upstream ferry on the face, to avoid a nasty pour over. The hole was created by the rafter's picnic rock, equally dangerous at lower flows. This move was extremely difficult, and I would like to survey this rapid a second time for a better route through.

From here on we scouted everything from our boats. As at normal flow, the river, though plenty challenging, seems to get less do-or-die and more do-because-you-like-it in nature. Wood's Ferry rapid had one of the largest waves on the run. The sneak to the right contained a truly Memorable hole/wave. I was expecting some huge wave, at Knootz Flume because of the steep gradient but the water seemed to be moving too fast to pile up. Canyon Doors where the river bends to the left end gets very ledgy, had a few long rolling holes, but they were easy to avoid. This whole section of the run had more surfer, ender, and squirt spots than one person could try in a month. Each perfect wave looked better than the last. We were ecstatic and exhausted by the time we made *Peter's Creek*, where we stopped for refueling and to see if Harvey would rejoin us, as he had said he might.

Harvey was not forthcoming, so we put in once again. This time we barely gave second thought to what yesterday seemed a big deal indeed. We slowed our pace only long enough to insure getting the sneak route (far left) at Heaven's Gate. Harvey, having received his day's exercise on the carry out, had thoughtfully finished running the shuttle, and we were putting our boats on the van seven hours after putting in, one hour and fifteen minutes after leaving Peter's Creek!

Over all, we decided the river rated class five with Lost Paddle and possibly Sweet's Falls getting five plus. This is not an easy run, in fact very few paddlers attempt it at this level. By writing this account I certainly don't mean to suggest that anyone try it. However, given the right group of well rested boaters, in the right frame of mind, with perfect weather conditions, I know a thrilling, fun, unforgettable experience can be had in relative safety. We had one!

Winslow Soule
From The Gradient

'Whiskey is for drinkin', water is for fightin' over!'

___ Mark Twain

Remembering a BWA friend, Ed Puterbaugh



“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

Don Spangler

When I first met Ed, he was a Lab Tech at the UK Med Center having recently earned a degree in Microbiology at U.K. But Ed Puterbaugh was soon to try his hand at many other pursuits including: building houses, doing web site development and desktop publishing and then along with his wife Nancy, publishing an *Arts across Kentucky* magazine. In recent years Ed, always driven to try new things, became known as the local master cheese maker, that produced Artisan Cheeses at his business, Boone Creek Creamery.

An original member of the BWA, Ed Puterbaugh went through many transformations in his life. But one thing that did remain a constant in Ed's life, from the early days on, was his love of boats and water. If you had been around Ed Puterbaugh for long you would often find him on a boat of some description. In the early days of the BWA, he paddled kayak and canoe. He also made a woodstrip canoe when that was a thing several of us did in the early days of the BWA.... there was not many options on boats to buy back then. But Ed also owned and paddled other watercraft including sea or touring kayaks that he, Nancy, and his daughter Erin, would do multi-day trips with. Finally, in later years, he joined many other early BWA members who took up sailing locally and then would go sailing all over the world.

Ed's life reflected a line from Kenneth Graham's' *The Wind in the Willows*, that he would often quote or have printed on plaques, shirts, and other places: **“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”**

Ed's zest for doing things gave wonderful memories to his many contributions to all who knew him and especially to those who he "simply messed about in boats with" and the Bluegrass Wildwater Association.

Here is a favourite article of mine that Ed Puterbaugh created for the Bowlines in 1978 based on our many weekend paddling adventures and eating at so many places going to and from boating rivers:

Class VI... Pass the Gravy!

Bow Lines August 1978 by Ed Puterbaugh

Tired, battered, bruised, and slightly punchy ... the day is over with a little regret. Twelve miles through the Big South Fork Gorge at 3000 CFS! Great day! It's a long way home, but we have one more stop to make!

Passing through Somerset, we all do an eddy turn into the parking lot at Joe and Ruth's. There never was any doubt about it. It's time to munch out on fried chicken and talk about pop-ups and Class IV water. This is a stop that we all have made many times; a scene that paddlers make every weekend.

For the benefit of the novice in this rarely neglected aspect of whitewater boating, I offer this proposed Eastern Scale of Restaurant Suitability, If you are a beginner, join an organized club and learn from the more experienced.

CLASS I

Service that is as slow as a long flatwater paddle. Many substances are barely recognizable as food products. These establishments are always offensive to both the olfactory and optical nerves and should be scouted thoroughly to determine suitability for human consumption! Commonly known as "The Pits".



CLASS II

Junk food emporiums known for their quick service and excessive amounts of grease and fiber fillers. Unfamiliar places should be approached with caution and scouted for compatibility with individual digestive systems.

CLASS III

Eateries that are often nicer on the outside than they are on the inside. The menu is short and disappointing. Although the food is fairly good, there is never enough to satisfy anyone's appetite.

CLASS IV

Extremely difficult, long and violent menus that always require lots of skilful maneuvering in large inflationary waves. Scouting is almost always necessary and conditions often make recovery difficult. The food is very good, but a good "financial roll" is essential. Generally not attempted by boaters who paddle every weekend.
*Editor's Note: These places generally stare at people in wet-suits!

CLASS V

Long and tantalizing menus that will not force a famished paddler to sell his boat in order to pay for a meal. However, these places are generally well known and crowded, and they are always running out of the more popular food items.

CLASS VI

The Ultimate. The pleasures of a Class V carried to the extreme, with no congested passages to find a seat. Most often of the "all-you-can-eat" variety that has plenty for all. Nearly impossible for the uninitiated. For teams of experts only, after close study and with all precautions taken! Easily recognizable by the pictures hung on the walls with duct tape!

Ed & the "Hot Tub Clinic"

Old timers of the BWA can regale you with a lot of stories from the early years of the BWA. You may question the absolute veracity of some of them, that is why it is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. And there are some pictures and some of them you may not believe what you are seeing. A case in point is the story about the hot tub clinic in the early eighties.

At the time Ed had access to a hot tub and a trailer. Seizing on what he had to know would be a real coup for the BWA in it's efforts to always go one better than other club clinics, he managed to get the tub down to the clinic in Tennessee(around a 3 hour drive). Some how they manages to get it filled with water during the day while everyone was on the river. Only problem was there was no way to heat the water up to "hot".

You must know that we were a hardy bunch that had spent all day in and out of the river and after a shot or two of "anti-freeze", the water felt "just right"! So the hot tub fit right in with the spirited celebration of a good day on the river.

I might add, our spring clinics were really in the spring (April) back then, but we always had a will do attitude to a challenge.

Yes, these and some of the stories yet to follow tell of a BWA spirit that Ed and all of us had. A big BWA hand to Ed Puterbaugh for the great memories!



Ed Puterbaugh 1953-2019



Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing... about in boats — or with boats.

In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it.

Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not.

Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows

Off the Cuff

Comments from the Forum Worth Remembering

Bob Pfannenstiel

2019 Russell Fork Rendezvous shirt and advance tickets available NOW

September 14, 2019

The 2019 Russell Fork Rendezvous shirt and advance tickets are now available at www.RussellForkRendezvousStore.com

Created by renowned local artist Shawn Wallace from Highbrow Hillbilly Studios, this 25th anniversary shirt is not only comfortable, but a real collector's item. Unavailable, except on the site as an advance purchase and in extremely limited quantities at the festival. All advance online purchases will be available for pickup at the festival or can be mailed to your home after October 27th. Get them while you can.

For more information about the festival go to www.RussellForkRendezvous.com

Attachments:

Shirt Front http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?5,file=1325,filename=Shirt_Front.jpg

Shirt Back http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bwaforum/file.php?5,file=1327,filename=Shirt_Back.jpg



This weekend, next week and Gauley Fest September 11, 2019

Great weekend of water this past Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Good to see boater phamily around everywhere. Think I am headed back. My current plan is to go to Tawney Farm this Friday night, paddle the Upper Gauley on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Then, I am headed to Friendsville on Monday evening, camping at John Reagan's, and boating the Upper Yough on Tuesday, maybe Wednesday, depending on how I feel orthopedically at that point. There is a party and a band at Reagan's on Tuesday night. There is another party and band somewhere else in Friendsville on Wednesday night. I will probably roll to that as well and mingle with boaters. I then plan to take Thursday off and head back to the Gauley, this time to Gauley Fest where I will set up camp in the BWA zone outside the gates on the left. I will probably be around the AW booth from time to time and I plan to paddle the UG from Friday through Sunday and then head back to TN that night, unless I stay for the Animal Race on Monday. Pretty good after race scene for that as well. Sure do love this time of year. Great warm weather ahead it appears. Hope to see many of you there, on and off river.

Brent

By the way, Mark Singleton will be paddling with me on Saturday and Sunday if anyone is interested in getting know our AW Executive Director. We at the BWA have a long history with AW, one that we should be proud of. We may be unruly, and we may be rowdy and prone to a party, but we are damn good boaters and river activists that have been and are directly involved in the history and ongoing evolution of whitewater paddling in the USA. Don't lose sight of that and please put our BWA resources into the things that make us great: NPFF, RFRR, Spring Clinic and Roll sessions. If we did no more than those four things we will be slaying it. See you'ins on the river!

Brent

September 17, 2019

Hope to see you too Brent.... It's been a while (well, ok, 25 years....)

Eddy Lines of Interest

BWA Steering Committee Meeting

501 (C) (3) Public Charity
EIN: 82-3598723

August 3rd, 2019

Ethereal Brewing, 1224 Manchester St, Lexington, Ky

Non-Committee Members in Attendance: 2
Meeting called to order by Robert Watts @ 8:00pm

OLD BUSINESS: No Old business items to discuss

New BUSINESS:

Russell Fork Rendezvous event for 2019.
Donation of \$500.00 to event from BWA

Motion 1st: Robert Watts : Motion 2nd : Hanley Loller :
Votes in Favor: 8
Motion for \$500.00 to Russell Fork Rendezvous : Passes

Russell Fork Rendezvous event for 2019
Loan of \$ 500.00 from BWA to Rendezvous
Motion 1st: Robert Watts: Motion 2nd: Kyle Koeberlein
Motion tabled until vote in front of BWA club meeting
09/10/2019

President: Robert Watts
•Motion to bring BWA.org and Related websites under the wing of the BWA instead of reimbursing Hanley Loller each year. Keep renewal on yearly basis and email contact for dns lookups/website registration will point to treasurer@bwa.org
Motion 1st Robert Watts: Motion 2nd : Brian Storz : Motion
Vote: 9 motion passes

Budget Estimate: \$ 1k for BWA 2020 Summer Party
Vice-President : Hanley Loller
• Budget Estimate for Spring Clinic 2020
\$1500.00

Secretary: Walt Hummel: Absent

Treasurer: Kyle Koeberlein
•BWA balance approx. \$5,95.00
NPFF Director : Gina Cunningham
•\$6k in account, Needs no funds from BWA currently.

Program Director : Sandra Brodus
•Total projected budget \$956.00
\$600.00 Holiday Party 2019, \$300.00 AW acres cookout 2020, \$7.00 for a drink for each month's speaker at club meeting.

Safety Officer: Sarah Leach
•Total projected budget \$2,000

Pool rentals for roll clinics
Conservation Officer: Brian Storz
• Asked for a Motion that all BWA events that are funded are itemized to account for were the money is spent on what item(s). This will help limit clubs exposure to

lawsuits due to sponsored events where alcohol is present. After discussion, item tabled to look at how maybe making this a bylaw instead of a motion in steering committee.

Budget Estimate: \$700.00 total : Red River Cleanup
\$200.00 Ducky repairs
Beginner Trips (2x) \$250.00

Newsletter Editor: Don Spangler -Absent

•
Membership Coordinator: Will Samples
• Has spent 75.00 on postage for parking passing for 2019/2020 Elkhorn Forks access.

Motion from Sarah Leach , 2nd from Kyle Koberlein for reimbursement of postage.
Web Meister: Joe Wheatley- Absent

•
Gear Meister : Kris Mullins
Working with Sandra Brodus on Gear Swap, BWA October 2019 club meeting.

Member At Large: Dave Forman
Recorded Minutes for this meeting.
Adjournment

Robert Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9/3/2019 at 9:25PM and it was seconded by Hanley Loller.

Signature of Minutes Approval:

BWA Meeting Minutes 9/10, 2019

7:40 Meeting called to order

Old Business

Bob Larkin made a motion to support rendezvous for 1000 dollars (500 plus 500 to be paid back from rendezvous proceeds)

Clay Warren seconded the motion

Floor open for discussion

Clay proposes an amendment to the motion for \$2000 with 500 dollars to be paid back for rendezvous proceeds

Vote called on the amendment - amendment failed

Vote called on Bob's motion - motion passed

Start program - Whitewater SUP

New Business

No new business

Hanley Loller made a motion to adjourn - meeting adjourned

Announcements

Allen thanks BWA for support of Red river clean up

Regina talked about opportunity to work with Boy Scouts

Clay Warren informed us that ERI won law suit in Ecuador

Walt