

# BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. Jan/Feb 2020

## In our Own Words.....

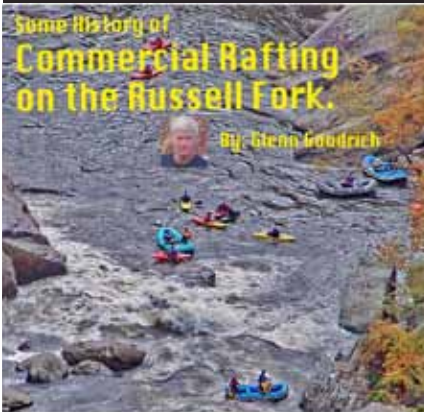
- In this issue:**
- National Paddling Film Festival 2020
  - Some History of Commercial Rafting on the Russell Fork
  - A Look Back: Ocoee Slalom History
  - Off the Cuff & Eddy Lines



You need to be there! Feb. 21-22

### Some History of Commercial Rafting on the Russell Fork.

By Glenn Goodrich



The Russell Fork is an amazing river and a great run to enjoy today. Rafting it commercially was a lot different. I was general manager and trip leader for Carolina Wilderness, the first outfit to run commercial trips there. Carolina Wilderness was the first outfit to get out of running commercial trips on the Russell Fork, as well.

In 1980, the Army Corps of Engineers contacted a handful of outfitters to run a trial run on the Russell Fork to test at the commercial viability of the river. Two of those outfits, Class VI and North American River Runners, decided to give it a try for a test day in November of 80. My outfit, Carolina Wilderness was not one of the ones contacted but we decided to go that day as well (it was open to other outfits, just a few were invited) about the same.

The date was November 14, 1980. Class IV River Runners and North American took off ahead of us. We caught up to them just above Trap Creek. They were waiting and we stopped to assist. I don't think the date, but I know we ended up having a short run, there was at least one of their boats that got stuck in First Bend. We had a pretty successful day and decided we would be willing to run it commercially. North American and Class VI decided not to.

Some History of Commercial Rafting on the Russell Fork

By Glenn Goodrich

### A look Back: Ocoee Slalom History

By Kent Ford



The finish line on the Ocoee at the 1982 Olympics

Word spread quickly through the paddling community in Washington DC, in 1976, where I was training whitewater slalom. "There is a new race, closer to the Maryland, on the westward following the NBC race. They say it is tough whitewater". This was music to our ears, as our training group had dreams of becoming an international powerhouse. Most established races were moderate whitewater in New England, so the kind of a southern race (in harder water and warmer weather had an instant appeal.

The Lower Ocoee Slalom did not disappoint. Two characters, the wild, boisterous Steve Thomas and the methodical Mike Larimer, called holes to hang gates over the river (no easy task, as the initial sink the water ran 26.7 ft/s to the broken barrel) with some contribution of southern charm and trash talking. Atlanta Whitewater Club responded to their calling, with ample volunteers to provide a backbone to the event. The paddlers did a great job of all the organizing bits, stringing wires over the river, and gate judging when not competing. The resulting event quickly became the first true

A Look Back: Ocoee Slalom History

By Kent Ford

# 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>



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	Walt Hummel	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...

## BWA Rolling Sessions

For Date, info and to register:

<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-3713492?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=2/4/2020>

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Current location is:

Georgetown Pavilion  
140 Pavilion Dr.  
Georgetown, KY



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](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)





It's time for the 2020 National Paddling Film Festival! Every year in February, a motley crew of dirtbag kayakers, open boaters, single bladers, 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 \$30. Tickets at the door are \$35. Ticket includes admission for Friday night and Saturday night, as well as beer and a raffle ticket. Last day for early registration is February 14th, 2020.

For more information about the festival, head over to our website: [www.npff.org](http://www.npff.org)

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/)

Become a BWA member at <http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/> page-392520

Thanks,

Gina Cunningham, NPFF Director, email: [npffdirector@gmail.com](mailto:npffdirector@gmail.com)

# Guest Speakers for National Paddling Film Festival 2020



## **Adriene Levknecht**

At the age of 27, Levknecht has already achieved a Bronze Medal in the World Freestyle Championships, won the elite Green River Narrows Race five times straight, dominated the Vail [Teva, now GoPro] Mountain Games creek race, and run top tier rivers around the world.

She has paddled professionally for 10 years. Through the years, Adriene dabbled in many different kayaking disciplines and is now moving more into a instructional, adventure travel, role of paddling while still racing and doing freestyle.



## **Nouria Newman**

is a French slalom canoeist who competed at the international level from 2007 to 2015. She won two medals at the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships with a gold in 2014 (K1 team) and a silver in 2013 (K1). She also won a bronze medal in the K1 team event at the 2014 European Championships in Vienna.[2]

She made a solo kayaking expedition Ladakh 2018. She paddled the Tsarap - Zanskar - Indus River in 7 days, covering 375 km; and was, in her own words, after getting hung up on a rock at one point, lucky to be alive. She made a 13 minute video of this journey which is on You tube.[



## **Travis Overstreet II**

Travis Overstreet II's father, Travis Sr., was introduced to whitewater canoeing in the early 1970's and fell in love with the sport and the lifestyle. A decade later, and after growing up listening to his father teach paddling skills to others, Travis II participated in outdoor adventures with his mother and father. In 1983, Travis II got his first canoe and hasn't looked back since. A student who now has taught all aspects of canoeing – ranging from competition to rescue skills.

Travis II now lives in Roanoke, VA with his family, where he's passing on his love of canoeing and white-water to the next generation. You'll see him anywhere from the New River in WV to the Green River in NC.

# Important Info for you about the National Paddling Film Festival 2020

**Buffalo Trace Distillery,  
113 Great Buffalo Trace,  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**

1 Advanced Ticket For 2020 NPFF – \$30.00  
Give name and email at door for admission.

1/2 Price Advanced Volunteer Ticket, 2020 NPFF –  
\$15.00 Registration code required  
For volunteers that work a single shift, code required.

Door ticket volunteer 1/2 price – \$17.50  
Registration code required  
For volunteers working a single shift, code required

## Get Tickets

Festival tickets are \$35 at the door. Children  
under 12, free. Advanced tickets on sale until  
Feb 14 for \$30! Admission includes beer tickets,  
non-alcoholic refreshments, and chili Friday night  
(while supplies last)

## Silent Auction

Bid on many donated paddling and non-paddling  
items. The bidding gets frantic near the close of  
the auction, Saturday.

## Visit the Sponsor Booths

Visit different sponsor booths. American Whitewa-  
ter, BWA, Canoe Kentucky, Sam Singleton Race,  
Silverbirch Canoes, and Esquif Canoes will have  
booths this year!

## Chili Contest Friday Night

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

## New this year

Looking for fun and crazy short vids for inter-  
ludes. Have carnage vid that you'd love to share?  
Send it on with a note that you would like to have

your submission considered for interludes. Have  
a funny whitewater related skit that you think will  
make us laugh? Film it and send it! Clips should be  
no longer than 3 minutes. Bring on the fun!

## Schedule

### Friday

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM Bourbon Tours on the Hour  
4:30 PM – Doors Open and Beer Starts Flowing  
5:00 PM – Film Showings Begin  
**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 Adriene Levknecht  
9:00 PM – Films Continue  
11:00 PM – Last call for alcohol  
11:30 PM – End of day 1  
12:00 AM – After party location TBD

### Saturday

**10:00 AM- 4:00 PM Bourbon Tours on the Hour**  
**12:00 noon – Not-NPFF Race Check-in at Elkhorn / AW  
Acres**  
1:00 PM – Not-NPFF Race  
4:30 PM – Doors Open and Beer Starts Flowing  
5:00 PM – Film Showings Begin  
7:00 PM – Guest Speaker Travis Overstreet  
8:00 PM – Director Remarks, Door Prizes, Film Winners  
Announced

9:00 PM – Keynote Speaker Nouria Newman  
9:00 PM – Wrap-up Silent Auction Bidding  
10:00 PM – Silent Auction Pick-up  
10:30 PM – Boat Raffles  
11:00 PM – Last call for alcohol  
11:30 PM – End of NPFF  
12:00 AM – After party location TBD

## 2020 NPFF Volunteer Sign up is now OPEN!!!

Volunteers who sign up for a single shift will receive a dis-  
count code (by email) good for half off regular admission.  
**Volunteers who sign up for TWO shifts (or a "Double  
Credit" shift) get in FREE!!!**

Sign up here:

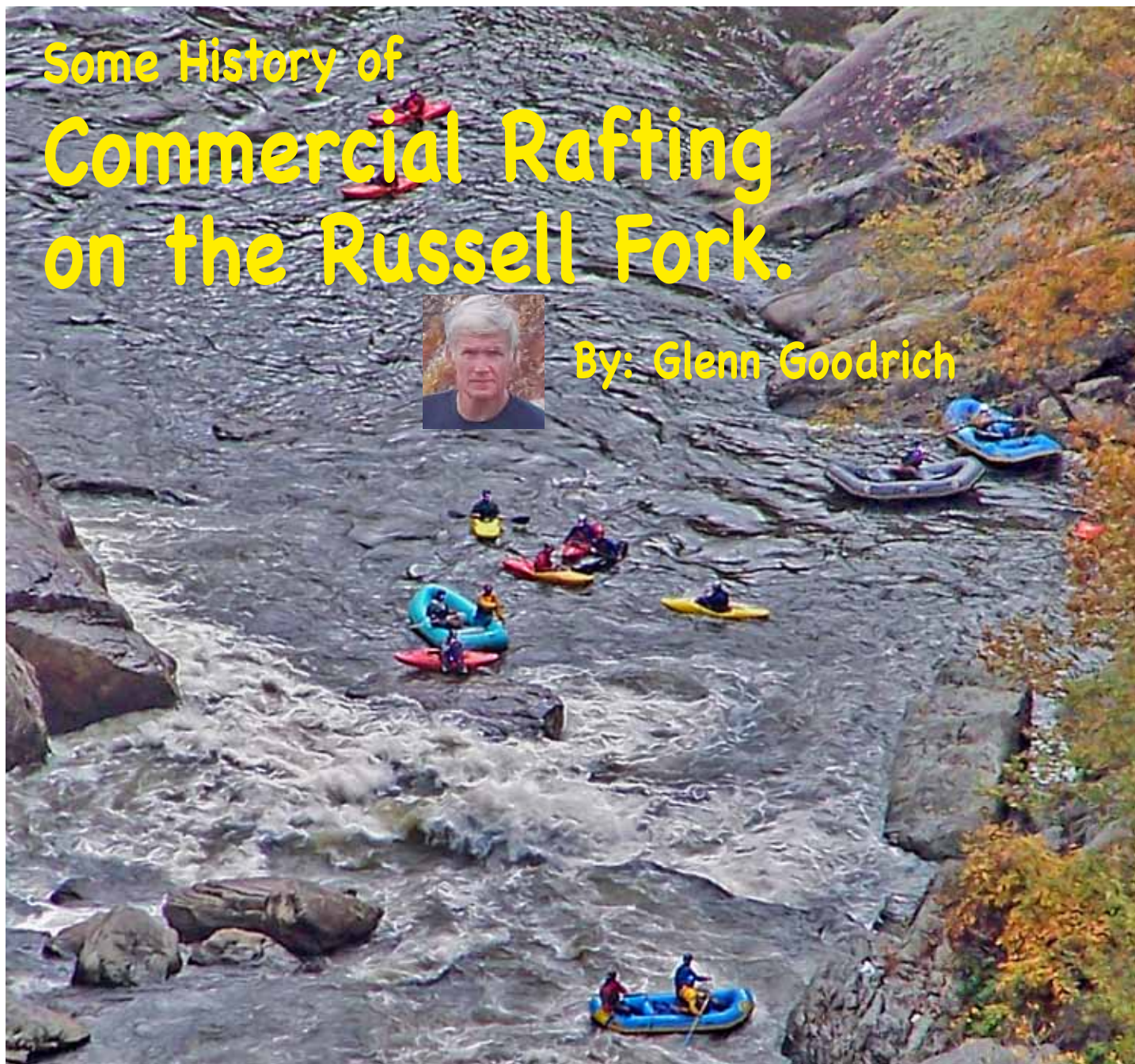
<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/event-3696605>



# Some History of Commercial Rafting on the Russell Fork.



By: Glenn Goodrich



The Russell Fork is an amazing river and a great run for expert kayakers. Running it commercially was a bit sketchy. I was general manager and trip leader for Carolina Wilderness, the first outfitter to run commercial trips there. Carolina Wilderness was the first outfitter to pull out of running commercial trips on the Russell Fork, as well.

In 1982, the Army Corps of Engineers contacted a handful of outfitters to run a trial run on the Russell Fork to look at the commercial viability of the river. Two of those outfitters, Class VI and North American River Runners, decided to give it a try on a test day in November of 82. My outfit, Carolina Wilderness was not one of the ones contacted but we decided to go that day as well (it was open to other outfitters, just a few were contacted about the release).

The date was November 14, 1982. Class IV River Runners and North American took off ahead of us. We caught up to them just above Triple Drop. They were scouting and we stopped to scout. I don't have the details, but I know we ended up having a clean run, there was at least one of their boats that got surfed in First Drop. We had a pretty successful day and decided we would be willing to run it commercially. North American and Class VI decided not to.



I don't have the exact dates of our first commercial run in 1984 (83 was a drought year, but do remember having high water for a training day before we ran the first commercial trip. The river started at 1400 cfs and by the time we were at Climax it was 1700. I was guiding a staff boat with 3 other people. I remember Lance Faber and Tom Anderson were in the raft and maybe Mike Tousey. We had a clean day, but did decide to portage El Horrendo. The rapid after El Horrendo, I think we called it Twister, Lance was guiding and we flipped. When we got to Climax, a kayaker friend of mine, Donnie Hudspeth(sp?), who later organized the Animal Race for Gauleyfest weekend, told us that if you go left at the bottom drop at Climax, you will may die.

Our boat was a bucket boat, before self-bailers were invented. I was guiding and as we entered the rapid, I saw a mellow looking hole that I could use to surf the raft to the right. Instead the hole kept us and we filled the non self-bailer with water. The hole spit us out to the left and I yelled "Oh Shit"! After the next drop, I had a chance to get right, but with the bucket boat full of water, I missed the eddy and then yelled OH f\*\*k. I had one last chance after the next drop to catch the eddy on the right before the death slot, but again didn't make it. We headed into the death slot and all of us swam. I started going deep and grabbed Tom Anderson's leg. We all came up ok. Tom still jokes that he saved my life. Donnie said he was afraid someone was going to die, when he saw us go into that chute.

Luckily when it was time for the commercial trip it was a more reasonable level of 1200 cfs. For the commercial trips we would put in at Flannigan Dam and take out in Elkhorn City. There were no incidents and we had a very smooth first commercial trip on the Russel Fork.

We did not run in 1985 and in 1986 we again ran a training trip and then a commercial trip. This second commercial trip had some excitement. Lance got surfed in first drop of Triple Drop, but we were able to get all of the guests out on the left shore, but the raft surfed for five minutes. In El Horrendo, one of my guests and I swam at the bottom drop. The scariest run of the day was Tom Stanley with guests came out of El Horrendo and the raft went under an undercut ledge below the drop, but all came out OK.



*Glenn Goodrich and his Wife, Sue, on the Rio Chili in Peru*

We did commercial trips in 1987 and 1988 without doing the training trips. Both of these were without incident. We started also running commercial "split trips", taking guests from Flanagan Dam to Garden Hole, taking out here and putting back in at the Gorge take out. The trip ran in conjunction with the Gorge trip, those doing the gorge continuing past Garden Hole while the split trip shuttled around the gorge. The split trip ran on down to Elkhorn City.

In 1989, I took a raft with other guides, while Richard West trip led a commercial trip for us. Richard in the lead commercial raft, went to catch an eddy in Maze, above Triple Drop. He ended up going against the wall and dumped his entire raft. People swam into the undercut, but somehow, everybody was back in a raft before Triple Drop. After that trip, back at the Carolina Wilderness office in Hot Springs, North Carolina, I had a meeting with the guides that had guided the Russell Fork and basically asked the crew "is it worth it?" Our decision was no, it is not, the risks are too great to run commercially. While we were the first to run it commercially, we were also the first to pull out.

2 or 3 outfitters continued to run it commercially. Sadly, a trainee for Appalachian Wildwater, went into that same rock that Richard had dumped on and drowned. Another friend, Channing Dale, a former employee of Appalachian Wildwater, continued to run trips (and very well) for a number of years. After the fatality, Appalachian Wildwater, decided not to run, but referred people to Channing's company. Channing did run a number

of years, but also eventually stopped running it commercially. To my knowledge, no one has run it commercially since.

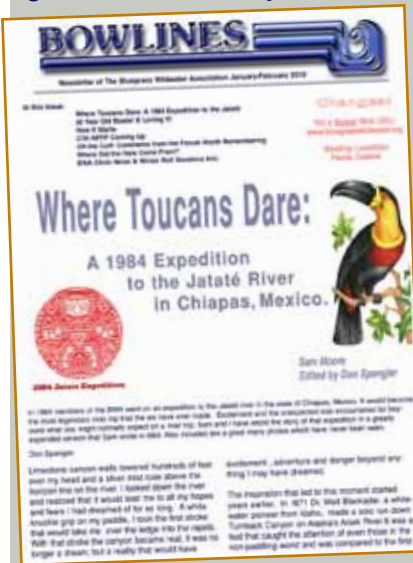
I made only one other trip in 2000, paddling a two-person shredder, with a paddling partner (we were quite good, I must say), Shari Coressel. In the 5 commercial runs we never did have a problem in Fist. I think because you drive right breaking a lateral to keep you off of the rock with the cave. The heavier commercial boats with 4 or 5 people punched through that lateral fine. However, in my very responsive shredder, that lateral carried us into the undercut. We went into the right side of it, Shari swam out to the right. I high-sided and as the boat was going over, I dove to the right. We came out unscathed, but knowing the history of Fist, we were a little shook up. That was the last time I ran the Russel Fork.

## About the "Gauley Lama " and his life & how he became a part of the BWA early history

In 1976 Glenn took his first whitewater raft trip down the New River in West Virginia and says "It way exceeded my expectations!" Glenn had been going to Ohio State University studying computer science, he soon left that behind him as Glenn believed his future was to be on rivers. In the almost five decades since then he has become widely known and celebrated in the world of rafting. There are few river runners that have a more impressive reputation than Glenn Goodrich as a whitewater rafting guru. With 1096 trips on the Gauley River his reputation earned Glenn the nickname "The Gauley Lama.". While his first 2 1/2 decades were mostly guiding on rivers in the Southeast, Glenn has run several hundred rivers all over the world. Few, if any other river runners have his experience and ability.

Since that first whitewater trip 1976, Goodrich has run rivers in 46 states and 33 countries, and has lived a life adventure many of us would have liked to. Believe it or not, there are still rivers out there that Glenn wants to run, but his two favourites are still the Colorado through the Grand Canon and the Gauley. Glenn has run 479 rivers in 48 states & 39 countries.

I get an email each year with his plans for river trips in the coming year and inviting those who might like to join him. At 65 years, the "Gauley Lama " is still living the life of a man who truly enjoys just modestly being "one of the raft guides" on the river.



In the early years of the BWA, we were fortunate to have Glenn as a part of our paddling association. Glenn and the BWA paddled a lot in the Southeast, before we both headed to more distant places. I first remember Glenn joining us the winter of 1983 for a BWA trip down the Colorado in the Grand Canyon. He rowed a very small raft he called "The Goodrich Blimp". This was some time before self bailing rafts existed so you had to be good at finding dry lines with a small raft in the big waves of the Colorado. Glenn Goodrich did not have a problem in his R-1 oar rig as I recall, but I was kept very busy trying to take care myself in my C-1. He had one of his few river mishaps on that trip, but not while in his raft, but due to our "Boat Trade Off Day". He tells the story of that in this 2005 Bowlines article reprinted below.



Glenn Goodrich running a slot on a very technical rapid on the Jataté river in the state of Chiapas, Mexico.

Glenn did another big trip with us when we did an Expedition on Jataté river in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. Links to the two part story of that expedition are:

- <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BowlinesJanFeb2010.pdf>
- [http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/MarchApril\\_10%20Bowlines.pdf](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/MarchApril_10%20Bowlines.pdf)

- Other issues to check out with Glenn Goodrich articles:
- The First Successful Nevis River Descent**  
[http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL\\_MarApril05.pdf](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL_MarApril05.pdf)
- Argentine & Bolivian Whitewater**  
<http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/May-June11%20Bowlines.pdf>



## A story from Glenn Goodrich about his trip with the BWA down the Colorado the day we all traded boats...

### Back Paddling Through the pages of March/April Issue of 2005 Bowlines:

I first met Glenn on a trip down the Colorado through the Grand Canyon in 1981. He had already made the river his life by that time. He paddled a small raft he called the "Goodrich Blimp" which may have been just under the size that the Park Service would allow on the river, fortunately they did not measure it. He was quiet, unassuming and offered to carry the beer for the trip. Since raft space was limited on the other two rafts it seemed like a good idea. Not that we had that much beer, a six pack for each of us. I made the mistake of saving mine for late in the trip. Near the end of the trip I decided it was time to drink my beer, It was all gone. Glenn had drank it all. That was a lesson I would not forget on future trips.

We did a second trip together a couple of years later. An expedition on the Jatate in the state of Chiappas in Mexico. His boat was the only raft and needless to say there was no room for beer, but that is another story. Since then I am always bumping into him on rivers.....the Ocoee, the Big South Fork, the Gauley, just about any river we paddle you will still find this old BWA'er on. Glenn has indeed lived the life that many of us have Walter Mitty dreams about in our more mundane lives. Here is an article from Paddler about Glenn, a reprint of a story he wrote for Bowlines in 1987 about a first run in New Zealand and a section of a story from his website about his first trip with the BWA. **Don Spangler**

*I've dislocated my right shoulder five times. The first time was in 1981 on the Grand Canyon . It was not my trip; I was invited by Clint Callahan, my roommate at the Winona guide house. He is from Lexington Kentucky and was friends with a lot of folks from a club called the Bluegrass Wildwater Association. This was their trip and our trip leader, Steve Morgan's nickname was Tubbo. Clint was to row a gear boat for 13 kayakers and I was to bring another person to row gear, then I would be allowed to carry minimal gear in my little 11 foot raft, The Goodrich Blimp. My rowing guest was a girl I was dating at the time, Kathy Prendergas or "Prender." Prender had never rowed until she found out about this trip then practiced a bunch on the French Broad River and then some on our way to the Grand Canyon via rivers in Montana, Oregon and California .*

*The trip went pretty smooth, Prender did great and there were no raft flips all the way through Lava Falls , day 10 of our 12 day trip. I was so ecstatic about making it through Lava unscathed, that I drank the whole trip's remaining supply of beer, as I rowed from Lava to our camp about 16 miles below.*



Glenn Goodrich with his dislocated arm in a sling doing his impersonation of John Wesley Powell, the one arm explorer, who led the first trip down the Grand Canyon in 1869.

*Since we were through the big stuff, the group decided we would do a big boat switch. Kayakers would take the rafts, and I ended up in a C-1, a decked canoe that kills your knees as you paddle. At least in an open canoe, you can sit up on the seat and stretch your legs, not so in a C-1. It was my first and last time in a C-1.*

*I went for a brutal eight miles before coming to the first big rapid at Mile 205. Mile 205, also called Kolb Rapid is an easy run with big waves. Trying to run the waves, I found myself turned sideways and I tried to throw a big high brace to keep from flipping. Pop went the shoulder and I was swimming. I was helped to the right shore, the group set up a table and a medical student on the trip, who had just finished his thesis on dislocated shoulders, laid me on the table and popped the shoulder back in place.*

*Clint went back to rowing the big raft, and I rode along with him as a passenger, now useless for rowing. I could barely walk, too; the dislocated shoulder was extremely painful, but I'm not sure if that or my legs from C-1 boating were in worse shape. One of the kayakers stayed in the Goodrich Blimp, which is another story in itself. Glenn Goodrich*

# A look Back: Ocoee Slalom History



*By: Kent Ford*



***The finish line on the Ocoee at the 1992 Olympics***

Word spread quickly through the paddling community in Washington DC, in 1978, where I was training whitewater slalom. *“There is a new race, close to the Nantahala, on the weekend following the NOC race. They say it is tough whitewater”* This was music to our ears, as our training group had dreams of becoming an international powerhouse. Most established races were moderate white-water in New England, so the idea of a southern race on harder water and warmer weather had an instant appeal.

The Lower Ocoee Slalom did not disappoint. Two characters, the wild, boisterous Steve Thomas and the methodical Mike Larimer, rallied folks to hang gates over the river (no easy task, as the initial years the water ran 24/7 due to the broken flume) with some combination of southern charm and trash talking. Atlanta Whitewater Club responded to their cajoling, with ample volunteers to provide a backbone to the event. The paddlers did a good chunk of the organizing too, stringing wires over the river, and gate judging when not competing. The resulting event quickly became the first true



indicator race of the season, a clue to who had been suffering through a winter of training, and who hadn't. Ideally scheduled, this followed a race on the Nantahala and a week long training camp.

Every year the pattern repeated the first weekend of April. The Ocoee doubleheader... a race Saturday then a separate racecourse Sunday. Who would have the skill and fitness to shine on the tough Ocoee slalom? It was a suitable testing ground, starting in an eddy on the right just below the dam, the course usually forced a tough ferry and out above Grumpy's Ledge, a 3 foot drop with ample backwash for a long and torturous swim if you didn't make the move. Usually a furious series of offset gates followed before a calmer section mid-course. This was before the upper parking lot, so bus loads of rafters would be sitting on their boats on the right shore, waiting for a break in racing to launch their trips.

The bottom of the course was similarly challenging, more from exhaustion than any single water feature, but with enough character to truly separate those with the focus for a fast and clean run. The race testing helped our gang of young paddlers. By the 1979 World Championships, we had ample depth to place Jon Lugbill, Davey Hearn, and Bob Robison in a sweep of C-1. Cathy Hearn won three medals at the same Worlds. Soon the US was the leading country internationally, and often won the top country honors.

*Jon Lugbill: I will always remember the unbelievable amount of silt in the Ocoee in the late 70's. The whitewater was continuous and tons of class 3 fun. The races there always involved a quick river trip afterwards to get in some play time.*

Jon was a whitewater canoe slalom racer who In 1979, won the C1 men's individual World Championship & went on to win gold in his category several more times. Lugbill went on to win gold in his category several more times.

*Eric Giddens, who went on to compete in the 96 Olympics, remembers his first race on this old course below the dam. "It was my first big race... Gate Judging in between runs, in the snow.. barefoot.. watching Jon Lugbill, Davey Hearn, you, I was so impressed. And watching British world Medalist Liz Sharman getting caught in the hole at Grumpys...going end over end... It was only later I learned she was not in control."*

*Scott Shipley remembers those days... One of my happiest memories was training on this rapid. We would set up gates made from old tomato stakes and do full length whitewater training in the hot sun with warm water for hours at a time. Such a great crew and great fun.*

*Shipley remembers "practicing across this tricky steep and fast wave-hole, which is very hard in a 13 foot long slalom boat, for months before my first team trials there in 1990. I finally got to where I could make it every time. Three years later this move was part of the final of the World Cup Final and I was one of the few who went direct allowing me to win the whole shebang (that individual World Cup race as well as the overall World Cup).*

Scott was a slalom kayaker who competed at the international level from 1988 to 2004. He won three silver medals in the K1 event at the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships, earning them in 1995, 1997, and 1999. He won the overall World Cup title in K1 three times.

Those early races were a family affair. In 1995, back in the days when everyone was hanging out in a parking lot above the lower Ocoee dam, a quick paddle would take you over to the walkway down to the race start. Rebecca Giddens remembers a two year old Dane Jackson, in a moment unattended (With Eric Jackson the dad, are you surprised?), waddle over to help himself to a boat, hop in, and start floating toward the dam. An attentive competitor hopped in a boat to nudge him back to shore.

Later that day I remember seeing EJ at the takeout with Dane, pushing him across the takeout

inlet. Yep, Dane started at age 2! Now he is the most acclaimed freestyle and extreme paddler in the world.

Those early years were crowded on the Ocoee, often with no discernible groups or rescue protocol. Scott Shipley: *"There were a few years with heartless recreational paddlers. It seemed that so many people swim that, unless they were in your group, they let you float on by to save yourself. Many times I've pulled out a waterlogged boater spitting and coughing before jogging down the road to find their boat!"*

### **Since 1977 Ocoee hosted nearly 40 whitewater competitions including:**

- 1993 World Cup Final
- 1994 Champion International Whitewater Series Race
- 1994-1995 US Slalom Team Trials

### **The Ocoee bids to host the Olympics**

All through the 1980's, this Ocoee slalom on the lower Ocoee was centerpiece to the annual racing schedule. Second only to the annual team trials and nationals it was the most important comp of the year. Behind the scenes, change was on the horizon. Whitewater slalom was locked into the 1992 Olympics, in Barcelona, but had yet to become a firm part of the Olympic Program. The only previous time had been 20 years earlier in Augsburg Germany so there was huge international pressure within the sport to keep slalom on the program. Artificial whitewater courses were unproven, so the only chance was to get whitewater written into the Atlanta bid.

Bill Endicott (paddler and coach of the U.S. whitewater slalom team from 1977 to 1992): *After Seo, the Barcelona Games in 1992, Slalom was removed from the Olympics (temporarily, as it turned out). I can't remember how I got asked to do it, but I was asked to approach Billy Payne, the organizer of the Atlanta Olympics and ask him to put slalom back in. So I went to Atlanta to see him. After talking a while he told me that if I could get someone else to pay for it, he'd do it.*

Atlanta paddlers pulled strings, and slid the Ocoee into the Atlanta Bid, convinced that a foot in the door with an "existing river" was the only way to convince the powers that be. "We've got a river, you don't have to build one". I think the intent

by paddlers early on was just to use that gambit to not get NO as an answer. Say anything to keep whitewater in the Olympics!



**Bill Endicott, with Kent Ford & his partner, Performance Video Editor, Director and Videographer (BWA member) John Davis**

Bill Endicott: *I was then asked to go make the case to Tennessee Governor, Ned McWherter, in the Governor's mansion in Tennessee about putting slalom back in the Olympics again, this time on a new course on the Ocoee and having Tennessee pay for it. And after a few days he said yes! Tennessee's US Senator James Sasser was in on this process.*

Bill Endicott: *Then not too long thereafter I got a call from Senator Sasser's DC office asking me to come down to the Capitol. "They offered me a deal, whereby the Olympics would be held on the upper Ocoee, the Forest Service would pay to construct the venue, and I'd be hired as a consultant to the Forest Service to advise on the project. They said if I didn't agree to this, slalom would not be in the Olympics, so of course I said yes.*

But a high stakes game of "not it" ensued, with Atlanta Organizing Committee approving the Ocoee Bid, contingent on the State of Tennessee paying all the costs. Of course, Tennessee was reluctant to pay, so the US Forest Service was brought onboard. By 1991 they devised a partnership, with USFS (the money and the land), TVA (who controlled the water), and the state of Tennessee (who managed people on the river and at events through their state park system).

Don Giddens (Georgia Tech aerospace engineer



& father of an aspiring Kayak racer, Eric, who competed in the 96 Olympics): *This was HUGE-LY complicated. There were several Tennessee stakeholders, but.....Who would pay for the venue construction? Would TVA guarantee water releases, not only for the Olympics, but also for the numerous events that are required leading up to the actual games? How would this impact the revenues of the local rafting companies? The entire Tennessee situation was riddled with complexities.*

It was a forgotten corner of Tennessee. Ellen Babers (NOC Head of Instruction, Instructor-Trainer 1984-2001) took on the daunting task of keeping all the players involved and working together. Her title: Director of Operations for the newly formed Tennessee Olympic Development Agency. She remembers going to meetings in Nashville where people would tell her the Ocoee was in Georgia. And in Atlanta, they knew it was in Tennessee, since they didn't want to pay for the venue. The TN state attorney would say *"there is no way we are going to sign that agreement with the federal Government."*

*"The policies and procedures of each agency clashed on a regular basis." Ellen noted "The only way it came together is there were people in each agency, acting as if this was certain to happen, with or without the legalities settled. It wasn't a matter of who was going to blink first, we knew the all the involved parties would blink eventually."*

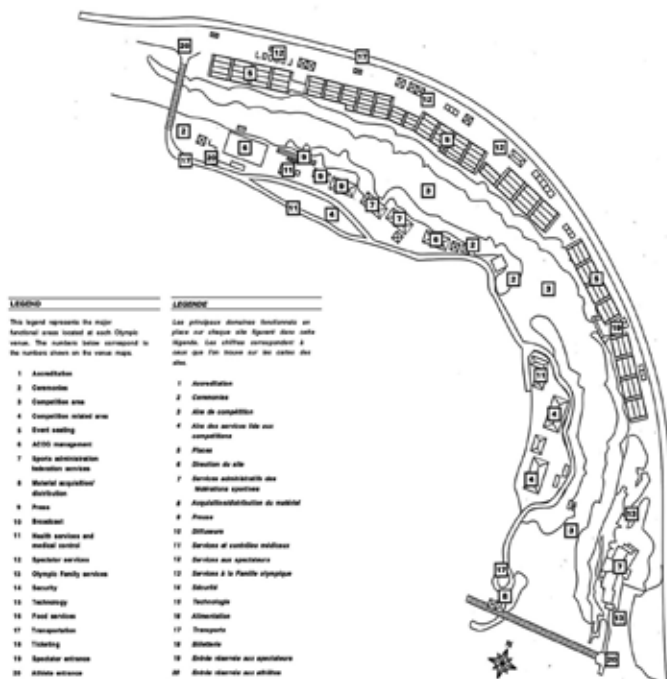
Don Giddens: *Similar to the improbability of Atlanta winning the Olympics bid when Billy Payne first began his efforts, inclusion of slalom in the 1996 Games was a demonstration that sometimes a few committed people can overcome long odds and make a difference.*

But locally, the economic development agency was regarded with some suspicions. "How will you be changing our nice quiet rural county?" Change incites fear, only balanced by the allure of the Olympics. As that subsided, people in the area wanted to be involved! Kids held placards for each country in the Opening Festivities. They helped at all the lead-up events. They were so proud of their town and region, and did so much. The frequency of events accelerated:

- o 1995 US Team Trials
- o 1995 Ocoee Slalom Challenge/ World Cup Final
- o 1996 UPS Whitewater World Cup 1 - final Olympic Qualifier and the US Olympic Slalom Team Trials

#### VENUE MAP PLAN DU SITE

Canoe / Kayak—Slalom  
Canô / Kayak — Slalom  
Ocoee Whitewater Center  
Centre des épreuves en eaux vives de l'Ocoee, Tennessee



Meanwhile the course design and construction was moving along. The idea was to hold the competition on the upper Ocoee, where there was slightly more road and riverbank space for event logistics. But test releases made it clear that 3000 cfs would be required for competition, however this sort of continuous release in July wouldn't be possible for TVA. TVA built a 300 foot long, 1/10th size model, allowing course designer John Anderson to create a plan for extending the banks, narrowing the river for the actual competition channel at 1200 cfs.

In November 1994 US Forest Service started placing over 60,000 tons of native rock weighing up to 7 tons each, were placed in the channel one at a time. All this was reinforced with 7000 cubic yards of concrete in and around the 500 meters of riverbed, narrowing the channel by up to fifty percent.. 14 Faux rocks were constructed, to add flavor (and mid-river camera mounts). The road was expanded to 4 lanes, with two lanes used for the Olympics infrastructure until after the event.

- o 1994 Champion International Race
- o 1995 Ocoee Doubleheader



- Park n Rides. The main highway, HWY 64 remained open during the Olympics. An 8' barrier prevented slow downs by those driving by.

- Spectators were hosted by ambassadors who knew the area, as a friendly voice on the bus transport into the event.

- \$10 million in contracts for TODA

- Tuesday July 16 - Olympic torch relay arrived via bicycle in Copperhill, TN, stopped at the Ocoee White-water Center, then headed west.

- Ocoefest Welcomes the World local ceremony pre-race with 12,000 attending

- 150,000 sq feet of tent platforms for organizing.

- 7,600 sf administration building + 1,200 sf exhibit hall

- A 300 foot long heavy vehicle bridge at the finish line

There were nearly 45 agencies involved. Everyone from the local sheriff, rescue squads, to the secret service (because Vice President Gore attended) and everyone in between. The Dixie Mafia, known for their violent criminal activity in the south was a concern. Paddlers seeking a run on local trails were turned around by FBI. Technical Organizer Mike Hipsher tells of a red sniper dot on his shirt during one getaway hike to the woods, seeking a brief respite from the chaos.

Our public address team went to a training a few months prior to the games, for all sports at the Olympic Headquarters in Atlanta.. The intent was to improve spectator engagement at the Olympics.... Imagine, some Olympic sports have a quiet venue protocol... Quiet please, the athletes are on venue!

Announcer Lamar Sims remembers: *“An official got up there and said we want to have the official Atlanta look and sound. We knew that too much formality wasn't going to work for whitewater. We were pleased when the trainers explained their intent was to have the events more lively. We soon realized that most other Olympic event presentation managers were imported from the NBA. We knew we could engage our spectators in a similar manner!”*

But, the official approved music didn't arrive for the test event months before the Olympics.

Olympian Cathy Hearn had huge respect for the course: *“This is not just a course with plenty of fast-flowing water; this one plays with you, challenges you, intimidates you.”*

It wasn't all smooth. One pre-event had a tornado warning, and another was impacted by major flood, in the midst of the venue construction. And during the lightning storm with our announcing team was in the Scaffolding tower, clearing people from the venue! Imagine the safety officers on site... Ellen remembers a meeting with them complaining to her about a few missing tennis balls on tent guy lines, when she looked across the river to see a front end loader carrying 3 major boulders weaving in and among concessions tents and volunteers.

As course public address announcer for the Olympics, we had many sponsor announcements touting the “unprecedented partnership of Forest Service, TVA, and Tennessee” But they all wanted the compete text- which didn't roll off the tongue! *The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, The Tennessee Valley Authority, the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, The state of Tennessee and their Tennessee Olympic Development Agency are proud to present....* Indeed! The number of moving parts to pull off the event, outside the Atlanta Olympic hub was jaw dropping.

Contemplate for a second just how huge the Olympic event became!

- 1996 Olympics tickets for canoe/kayak - 15,000 spectators for each of the 3 Days

- 1500 staff and volunteers

- 200 local, state and federal agencies



And ironically our venue was singled out with a complaint letter to Billy Payne, the President of organizing committee for the Games. Evidently, speculator at the Ocoee test event didn't think Jimmy Buffet's song Margaritaville was appropriate music for the Olympics! I think this letter was widely met with an eye roll, except to the music contractor who was too late in delivering official approved music.

*I blew out my flip flop,  
Stepped on a pop top,  
Wastin away again in Margaritaville,  
Searchin' for my lost shaker of salt.*

## The Olympic Race Days

Logistics were intense just getting to the venue, so as Public Address Manager I slept at the venue before the first day of competition, to help insure our public address team could be up and running as the first volunteers arrived. But I was awoken and moved from the venue by the FBI at 5 am, as Atlanta had suffered the Olympic Park Bombing. Perpetrator Eric Rudolph was eventually caught near his hometown, Murphy TN. About 45 minutes from the Ocoee. The Olympic slalom continued with only slight delay for the athletes, and most spectators only missed a bit of the racing.

*Lamar: I had never seen a crowd that size for a paddling event, anywhere.. It remains one of the top five largest crowds ever, worldwide, to see a paddling event. To have a wall of noise for the full 600 meters course. For slalom in the US, that was a day we had never seen before, and will never see again. It was just an amazing event. Some incredible paddling.*

Scott Shipley went into the Olympics as the favorite to win Mens Kayak. He had won the world cup in 93 and 95, and was silver medalist at the worlds the year prior. *"There is nothing in your life that can prepare you for coming out of the starting gate on a whitewater river and hearing the roar of 18,000 people cheering for you as you run down the rapids. The course was just big when it first opened. Big water came over our bow, then extra big water in the drop called humongous. If you couldn't find a ride on a little wave, the force of the water pushed you way off line.*



Shipley finished 12th, touching one gate cost him 4th place. When he hit that gate, and the ensuing 5 second penalty, you could hear the collective sigh from the entire crowd of fans, knowing the US chance for a medal was gone.

Olympic stories in the end are so human, and the Ocoee Olympics was no different. Think of Wayne Dickert, racing C2 with Horace Holden. The huge water mandated tight sprayskirts... and Wayner dislocated his thumb at the pre-start, and raced the event with a dislocated thumb.

Or consider, how close is 1/100th of a second? That is how much Dana Chladek missed an Olympic Gold medal by. She finished with a silver medal, to follow her bronze from the 92 Olympics. What a great story, but it was largely overlooked by NBC. Their pre-produced coverage had focused on Dana's teammate Cathy Hearn with brother Davey Hearn, so Dana's medal was lost in the media aftermath and obscured also by the Olympic park bombing of the evening prior.

## Worldwide friends

Just prior to the Olympic Opening, Scott Shipley got a call letting him know that Samir Karabašić had destroyed his boat in training and needed something to be able to race the Olympics. So Scott lent him his practice boat.

*"This became a big news. Sue Langfit Fuller was helping me coordinate a lot of the press and marketing and we got to discussing the boat loan. She had said that people were offering to help, so we hatched a plan to just start collecting stuff and putting together a trip to give it to Samir's club back in Bihac, Bosnia.*

*In the end we filled a container with about 30 boats and associated gear. Everyone from Dagger, to Adidas, to NRS to whomever had put something in there and we went to Bosnia and gave it to them and then paddled with their club. The Town had been under siege at that point for a couple of years and the boathouse had been blown up so this was much needed help. The kids we paddled with were so happy to see us and so happy to have us there. They weren't ready to wear spraydecks yet but they paddled the river with us anyways--meaning every kid (about 13 of them) swam every rapid. Quite an experience. Two of those young 11 year olds went on to compete in Olympic games of their own. I still visit with them at world slalom events."*

Of course, every country had stories of the Ocoee games. The French C2 team of Franck Addison and Wilfrid Forgues pulled off the most amazing plan B backferry in paddling history. Far off line in a powerful wavetrain, they managed to backferry to the gate and propel their way to a gold medal.

Imagine the French gold medalists accent at the post race press conference: *"We made a big, big mistake in slalom course on the splashing, roaring Ocoee River, "and the world didn't stop,"* said the veteran paddler Addison.

*"We had to be on the right, going slow, and we were on the left, going fast. In one millisecond I decided, reverse!"* Then it was not the Olympics, it was rodeo. And when I looked up and saw that we got through, I thought, *Incredible!"* Incredible, unbelievable it was. A random bounce through a wave into an Olympic Gold medal.

Roger Madrigal of Costa Rica had an amazing, respectable run, in his country's first Olympic appearance in slalom. Every paddler's dream, to have their best performance at the Olympics.

Olympian Eric Giddens finished 20th, a touch out of the top ten- The Olympic course was long... really long, you were always trying to keep a little energy for the bottom, in case you got stuck in Humungous. Definitely a piece of our paddling heritage in the US. Incredible culmination of all of that effort.

Boom! The reviews of the Olympics were amaz-

ing, launching the Ocoee into the top tier of international river venues.

### **The Race that wasn't.... The 2001 World Championships**

The International Canoe Federation wants to keep their prime venues active, so the Ocoee was awarded rights to host the 2001 World Championships.

Organizer Bob Campbell remembers a team of ten worked for about six months on lead-up to the event. *"We started with organizing a World Cup in 2000, but the Worlds would be a major event, nearly 40 countries were registered. The local community had a lot of enthusiasm left over from the Olympics, so we had about 200 people lined up as volunteers."*

But then the terror attack of 9/11 hit ten days prior to the competition and practically the entire country shut down.

Event Organizer Ann Rymer: *There were two issues noted immediately: venue /athlete security and inaccessibility into our country. With the ATF security pulled to NYC and DC and the TVA police force dispersed to guard their various dams in case of further attacks, there was no security in place for the event. There was not enough time to arrange for other security needed at an event such as this. Additionally, there was no way of knowing if future attacks were planned and security of the teams coming into international airports was a concern.*

*At this point, only half of the teams had made it into the U.S. The other half were scheduled to come in between Sept. 11-13 for practice time prior to competition. However, I recall one team frustrated since their flight was diverted to Canada on Sept. 11 and they planned to drive in, but U.S. authorities weren't allowing them to come into the country. We had no idea when the borders would be re-opened or international flights allowed back in. It would not be fair to those competitors who couldn't get in the country due to no fault of their own to be denied a chance to compete at the Worlds.*

Campbell: *We probably had 40 teams scheduled from around the world... about half were in country already, and half couldn't get there.*



*They were stuck, many stuck in Montreal, some in Toronto, some were stuck in Frankfurt waiting for their overseas flight to Atlanta. Airspace was closed for 5 days. When will the borders be open? Should we rent a van and drive down, or just return home?*

Naturally there were sentiments to continue as planned and hold the competition, but that was not to be.

Bob Campbell- *Several things contributed to the decision to cancel. One was the pure uncertainty. Is this over? Are there more attacks in the planning? Are athletes in danger? People from all over the world. Is it vulnerable. And secondly, half the teams were not going to be there, so it wouldn't have been fair.*

Ann Rymer: *The decision to cancel the event was not made lightly. All the preparations for the event had been completed, including purchase of a new timing system software. Opening ceremony was set for a parade of athletes across Walnut Street Bridge Chattanooga to coincide with the city's "Culture Fest" held at a park near the TN River and this bridge. We had lined up television broadcast, promotion of the event through different media, receptions, etc. The popular homestay program from the Olympic days was enlisted again, and everyone was ready for the event.*

The French team, Czech team, all the early arrival teams were stuck. Lots of them stayed with their local families. These homestays were an informal hosting arrangement preferred by many of the athletes, and especially valuable during the national trauma. Gradually they started traveling around the region to see local sights.

It took several weeks to get the tv crews home, and this was a big deal, as they had been brought in to provide live broadcast to Europe. It took almost three weeks to get everyone back home, to unwind the bulk of the contracts. It probably took the ICF almost a year to get the TV contract totally settled/ forgiven.

The 911 attacks had several spin-off effects tangential to slalom. Consider this tragic story. Whitewater Parks International was a new company, with plans for designing Olympic quality whitewater parks. Paddler/Designer John Felton of Australia was in route from the World Cup in

Wausau through New York City to discuss building a river channel on the outskirts of the city. He opted to meet with Stuart Fraser of Cantor Fitzgerald at the proposed venue, rather than at the World Trade Center. This saved Stuart's life.

Cantor Fitzgerald lost 658 of its New York employees in the World Trade Center that morning, nearly 70% of its workforce. Mr. Fraser, now a VP of Cantor Fitzgerald, leads Cantor Fitzgerald's September 11 memorial service annually and is a director of the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund.

In a bizarre twist for the Ocoee, some conspiracy websites cite a year 2000 visit by Mohamed Atta to the Ocoee headwaters, near the Copperhill Airport. Atta is known as one of the ringleaders of the 19-man hijacking gang. Was the sulfuric acid of the former copper processing plant in Copperhill considered as a target? Was the Ocoee River?

That stretch of river got retooled for the Olympics, but the course length got much shorter with the ICF to make it easier for pumped courses. So the 2001 Worlds would have started below the big drop known as slam dunk... nearly gate 9 of the Olympics. But the masts that hold the gate system were huge, and not easy to get rigged and positioned. Each mast had a winch to tighten the cable. Setup for each event took a lot of people each time, since it was not permanent. All that stuff just sits in a Forest Service barn in Cleveland Tennessee, unused due to the complexity. This complexity has simply made it tough to arrange ongoing events.

Bob Campbell: *There was a huge dip in enthusiasm after the 2001 cancellation. You had to balance this huge disappointment, working for weeks in advance... with the aftermath. People were very disoriented, unsettled, and not ready to take the step for a race again. Because of that traumatic event, the enthusiasm just fell out for the volunteer base.*

The Olympics put the Ocoee on the map internationally. Paddlers loved the course. They loved the down-home feel of Polk county. If the Worlds had happened, then certainly there would have been World Cups there in following years. Instead, whitewater slalom in the US languished. The 2014 Worlds were held in western Maryland, but the oomph was gone organizationally from the US.

## THE FUTURE

Now in 2020, the Ocoee River Basin Foundation is stepping into the void, hosting the third Ocoee River Championships. Many celebrate the return of slalom racing, freestyle, downriver racing, boater cross, and SUP events on the Upper Ocoee, and a squirt boat competition on the middle Ocoee.

Here is a breakdown of events for Ocoee River Championships.

Slalom- a glass class and plastic class with the intent to make it for everyone.

Freestyle- Callahan's

Downriver- from bridge to bridge

Boatercross- slam dunk to bottom bridge

Duckycross- only 20 dollars win a 250 paddle as prize. Why not?

Raft Slalom Race- designed to be a little tough.

Sup events- sup cross and slalom race.

Major Contributors to this history:

Bill Endicott  
Bob Campbell  
Don Giddens  
Ellen Babers  
Ann Rymer

Slalom racing was our Hogwarts. It was our School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Whitewater is our magic, delighted to still be under its spell with so many great friends. Mike McCormick, on the sentiment shared by most 1980's era slalom racers

**Author Kent Ford's highly acclaimed books, videos and instruction have influenced the education of half a million paddlers. Kent's unique background includes twenty years of international whitewater racing and coaching, combined with similar experience teaching recreational boating to all levels of paddlers.**

**Find all his instructional videos, including the historical documentary "The Call of the River" available for free download and streaming at [Performancevideo.com](http://Performancevideo.com)**

# More about Kent Ford

If you are relatively new to whitewater paddling, you may not recognize Kent Ford or know of his legendary reputation in the paddling world.

Here is just a short list of some of Kent's Accomplishments:  
**Competitive Accomplishments:**

- A member of the U.S. Whitewater Team almost every year between 1977 and 1995, Kent often finished in the top 7 in World Championships.
- A three time National Champion, Kent was a two time World Champion in C-1 slalom team. This was the second time in history the same team had won twice.
- 1983, 1985 World Champion C-1 Slalom Team
- 1979 Silver Medal World Championship Team Downriver C-1
- 1977 National Champion C-1 Slalom
- 1983 National Champion C-2 Slalom

## Whitewater Organization Advocacy:

- Founder, Three Rivers Paddling Club,
- Pittsburgh Concrete Canoe Collegiate Champion, 1978-80 for Carnegie-Mellon Team
- American Whitewater Long-time member and supporter, Board Member (5 years)
- American Canoe Association Life Member, •Former member Board of Directors (3 years)
- USA Canoe-Kayak, former member board of Directors (6 years)
- ACA SEIC Chairman 4 years
- 1980 John Fitts Award for contributions to paddlesports in Pennsylvania, Three Rivers Paddling Club
- 2005 William Nealy Award for contributions to visual arts of paddling, Bluegrass Whitewater Association

## Adwards/Accomplishments

- Inductee International Whitewater Hall of Fame 2008
- Legends of Paddling Award- American Canoe Association, for legendary contributions to paddlesport 2015
- Inductee into the Whitewater Hall of Fame
- Some 40 years of paddling experience of over 330 rivers in 27 countries, first descents of the Animas Gorge in Colorado, and the Mictazuma river in Mexico.
- Kent Ford along with BWA partner John Davis were important & early creators of whitewater instructional and paddling history videos & key supporters the the National Paddling Film Festival in early decades.

**Kent Ford will always be know for all that he has accomplished in his life and paddlesports....**



**The BWA will always value the friendship & support the BWA had with Kent and his late partner & friend, John Davis. Thanks Kent!**



# Find out more about Paddling history....

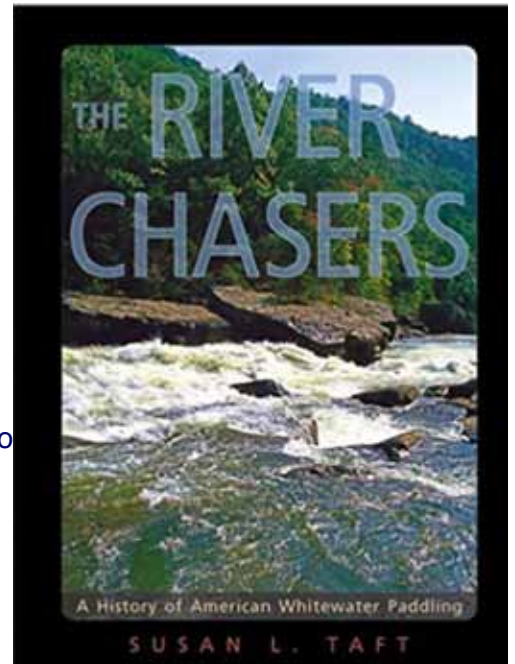
## Check these sources out:

### The River Chasers: A History of American Whitewater Paddling

Susan L. Taft

The River Chasers is a narrative history of American whitewater canoeing and kayaking. The book traces the evolution of paddling through the people, places, and events over the last sixty years. The culmination of five years of research and 130 interviews, The River Chasers covers whitewater paddling from wood/canvas canoes and folding kayaks to modern day composite and plastic; from recreational whitewater to slalom, squirt and freestyle; from clubs to the leading whitewater manufacturers. In recognition of its treatment of the history of whitewater, The River Chasers was accepted for inclusion into the Library of Congress in 2002, a major accomplishment for the sport of whitewater in preserving its history while also telling the story of the sport to future generations. The book has also been recognized for telling the history of commercialization of user innovations, a process outside the traditional market system of business economics.

*Bowlines Editor: Susan Taft has been to the NPFJ a couple of times over the years. Her book is a good starting point to find out about the history and the folks and events that have been a part of the history during the decades of the 20th century.*



### The Call of the River

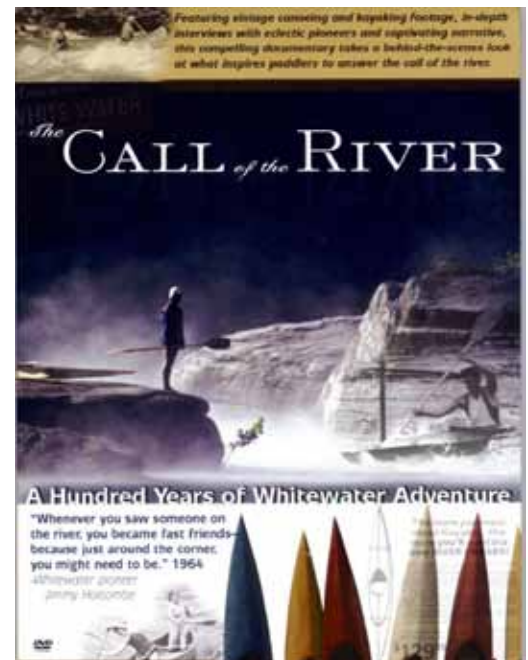
A historical documentary, Kent Ford's "The Call of the River" is available for free download and streaming at Performancevideo.com

Kent also has a blog with a lot of topics worth checking out: <https://performancevideo.com/kent-fords-blog/>

I was fortunate enough to spend many hours with Kent Ford & John Davis as they filmed interviews for this history. Well worth viewing! Especially if you are a paddler from "back when."

**Kayak Journal** A good blog from Marc Welstand of his experiences since about 2010. <https://kayakjournal.wordpress.com>

<https://whitewaterhistory.com> Whitewater History from Chris Preperato "attempts to aggregate and connect the most interesting writing on the history of the sport, while also producing original work. Sources vary from intricate articles on expeditions, to videos and write-ups of trips, all the way down to Facebook notes and forum posts. The intention is to illuminate the many varied connections between the sports past and present, while giving a spotlight to the past that is so often lost in current coverage." *Chris Preperato's Shootout at Sang Run won first place the National Paddling Film Festival.* <http://historyoftheupperyough.com>



### Check out past issues of Bowlines, there is a lot of history there:

On Line Archive: <http://bwa.shuttlepod.org/Newsletter>

The Remarkable Canoe: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BLMayJune07.pdf>

# Eddy Lines of Interest

## BWA Steering Committee Meeting 12/3/2019

Bluegrass Wildwater Association steering committee was held at Kyle's house 12/3/2019 at Time 6:30 P.M.

### Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Robert Watts	President	Y	
Hanley Loller	Vice President	Y	
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y	
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	Y	
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	Y	
Brian Storz	River Conservation Liaison	Y	
Sarah Leach	Safety Officer	Y	
Sandra Broadus	Program Director		
Regina Hatfield Cunningham	Film Festival Coordinator		
Joe Wheatley	Web Meister		
	Gear Meister		
Dave Forman	Member At Large	Y	
	Membership Coordinator		
Kyle Koeberlein	Past President		

### Officer Reports

- VP -- 2020 Spring Clinic 3rd weekend in May at Ratliff Hole already set up
- Newsletter -- New issue coming out centers on Russell Fork Rendezvous
- Safety -- Have had low attendance at recent pool session, losing \$80 to \$90 per session still looking at options. Will need help with pool sessions starting on 12/13
- President -- Need to get word out for Christmas Party. Raffle same as last year with Green Jackets from Astral. No catering, potluck.
- Conservation -- Red River Gorge clean up on Mother's day, allotted \$200
- Treasurer -- \$2600 on hand

### New Business

Appropriate money for roll sessions:  
 Motion made to allocate \$500 for 2 more roll sessions. Motion seconded.  
 Motion Passed

Create new elected position -- Social Media Director  
 Motion made to create new position, motion seconded

Motion amended to make position temporary during this term -- amendment passes

Motion to nominate Robert Go, Motion seconded and passed

Bryan writing grants for Sam's Race and in process identified the need to evolve into a more mature 501C3 organization this includes:

- Developing a Mission Statement
  - Establishing an ethical code of conduct
  - Financial accountability
  - o Motion will appended to the minutes when printed details received
  - o Motion to table, seconded and passed
- Adjournment

Club Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 12/3/2019. and it was seconded by Club Member. The motion was carried.

## BWA General Meeting 1/14/2020

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Robert Watts	President	Y	
Hanley Loller	Vice President	Y	
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y	
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	N	
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	Y	
Brian Storz	River Conservation Liaison	Y	
Sarah Leach	Safety Officer	Y	
Sandra Broadus	Program Director	Y	
Regina Hatfield Cunningham	Film Festival Coordinator	Y	
Joe Wheatley	Web Meister		
	Gear Meister		
Dave Forman	Member At Large	Y	
	Membership Coordinator		
Kyle Koeberlein	Past President		

### Program 30-45 Minutes

Stream Restoration.

Presenter: Dr. Carmen Agouridis

### New Business

Motion to authorize funding for 2020 winter rolling sessions

Hanley made a motion that authorization be granted to the steering committee to spend up to \$2,244 on rolling sessions from January 1st, 2020 to May 16th, 2020.

Motion seconded          Motion passed

### Announcements

NPFF volunteer site is up, slots filling up.

Spring clinic coming up

CKY roll session 1-3 PM at Frankfort YMCA

NPFF announced Paddle with Pros at Frankfort Y to be raffled off.

### Trip Reports

Time for club members to talk about and share any recent trips.

### Adjournment

Club Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 1/14/2020 @ 9:30 P.M. and it was seconded by Club Member. The motion was carried.