

# BOWLINES

Award Winning Newsletter of The Bluegrass Wildwater Association since 1976. May/June 2021

*In our Own Words.....*

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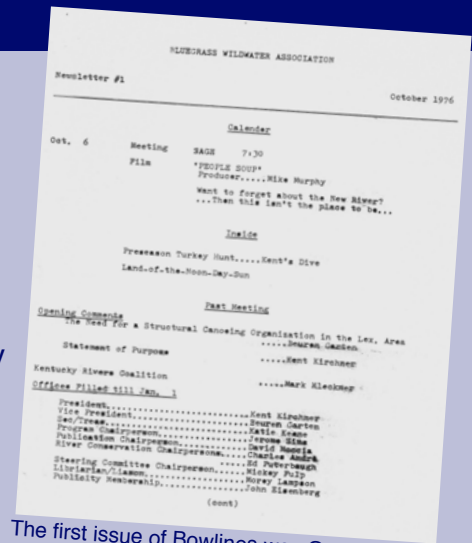
## You, the BWA Member

from the very first issue of *Bowlines* in 1976 have been key in telling your story as a paddler & member of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association!

More than ever **your** help & effort is needed in continuing this legacy to BWA members. We get to enjoy & know you better if you share your paddling adventures, stories & photos with your friends in the BWA and many others by contributing to the *Bowlines*.

Present & future paddlers will appreciate your story!

Just e-mail it to the *Bowlines* Editor along with photos if you have them, & your contribution will be in a future issue! Issues of *Bowlines* are posted & archived on our website for all to enjoy: <http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/index.php?f=newsletter>



The first issue of *Bowlines* was October 1976 was 4 pages that was mimeographed.

**Here is why the BWA's *Bowlines* is read by many in Paddling Community.....**

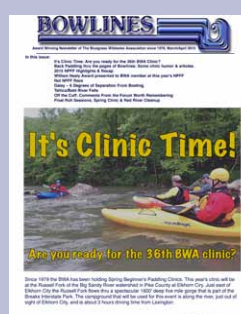
## Bowlines chosen as 'top' Paddling Club Newsletter!

From the July-August 1999 Issue of Paddler Magazine:

Lexington Ky's Bluegrass Wildwater Association takes top honors for the design, content, entertainment and usefulness of its *Bowlines* publication. If this were an on-line newsletter contest, the club would probably win that too—it went into cyberspace in 1996 and currently e-mails the newsletter to all members in addition to posting each issue online for others to download. In existence since 1976, *Bowlines* is published bimonthly and does more than just convey reports to the club's 150 members. "From the very first days of the club *Bowlines* has been a record of our activities and thoughts, says Editor Don Spangler." Early members decided the newsletter should be more than a reporting of trips. We wanted it to reflect out enthusiasm for the outdoors and paddling, and to reflect our humor and thoughts." *Bowlines* unique content includes restaurant reviews, tall tales, opinion articles, cartoons, soap operas and tales of epic journeys.

Editors note: Thanks to Paddler for the recognition and thanks to all the many people in the BWA for their part in making this such a unique Paddling Newsletter!

Issues you  
might enjoy  
reading:



# Looking Ahead

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

## BWA Monthly Meeting

Meetings to be held on line virtually till further notice

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

<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org>

All BWA Meetings/Activities are on hold, check

BWA web site or look for e-mail updates

### Roll Sessions

For Dates, info and to register go to Calendar:

<http://bwa.shuttlepod.org>

### SAVE THE DATE!

The BWA Beginner's Clinic will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday, August 28 & 29. Sign ups and more details will be available later this month!



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://bwa.shuttlepod.org/Newsletter>

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

[http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv\\_Aug06.pdf](http://www.bluegrasswildwater.org/bowlines/BL30thAnnv_Aug06.pdf)



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

### Club Officers 2020-2021

President	Sandra Broadus	859-983-4475
Vice-President	Emily Grimes	859-358-0912
Treasurer	Kyle Koeberlein	502-370-1289
Secretary	Walt Hummel	859-351-0132
Safety	Dave Forman	859-550-9040
Program	Clay Warren	859-326-0602
Newsletter	Don Spangler	859-277-7314
Cyber Communications	Michael Williams	859-893-0114
Conservation	Bob Larkin	502-550-4225
Film Festival Coordinator	Emily Grimes	859-797-6988
Equipment Coordinator	Jansen Koeberlein	270-703-0352
At-Large Member	Gus Milton	859-489-1337
Membership Coordinator	Will Samples	859-351-0132
Past President	Rober Watts	859-554-8489

### Join in on the Fun!

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

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

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

Files can be e-mailed to the Editor: [DonSpang@aol.com](mailto:DonSpang@aol.com)



### About the BWA's Bowlines

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

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

# REMEMBERING THE PAST YEAR

Some ways good crazy,  
a lot of ways not.

*Sandra Broadus*



River Family,

This year has been crazy. In some ways good crazy, but in a lot of ways not. The global pandemic forced us to put a hold on our in-person events, and has temporarily halted some of our member discounts due to supply chain shortages. The BWA was handed its first lawsuit in our storied 45 year history. Some of our family and friends succumbed to illness, job losses, and other hardships. But the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and brighter, and we accomplished so much and still carried out our mission this year!

- Thanks to the hard work of our incredible NPFF Coordinator Emily Grimes, we successfully transitioned our popular film festival to an international virtual event and raised money to support American Whitewater!
- Our virtual monthly meetings drew some incredible speakers which would never have happened if the events had stayed in person! We had staff members Kevin and Bethany from American Whitewater, world-renowned expedition kayaker Darcy Gaechter, and professional kayaker Katrina Van Wijk pull together some amazing programs for our members!
- On top of the excellent speakers, our virtual monthly programs also included useful tips and resources, like Drysuit Repair 101 by past president Robert Watts and Search & Rescue Lessons Learned by Michael Williams and Sandra Broadus. Plus as always, lots of excellent trip reports and river stories provided by members like you!

- We learned that the low head dam on the Elkhorn by the Jim Beam Old Granddad Distillery is being removed! Although there have been a few delays, the project is still on track to be completed this summer! This will create a safer environment for paddlers and fishermen alike, as well as improve the ecosystem health for wildlife on the Elkhorn, and maybe will provide a new surf wave or two, who knows?
- The BWA swept the Jess Cup paddle race this year, with members Sam Iatarola and Sarah Leach taking the men's and women's categories.
- Member Bill Lynch won a \$50 gift card to J&H Lanmark Store for filling out our member survey!
- Despite the BWA not holding our own events, our members continued to spread the good word of whitewater and introduced new paddlers to the sport throughout these challenging times, and those paddlers have in turn introduced their friends to the sport! Our membership has continued to grow, despite the temporary setbacks.
- In-person events are back!! We just had our first in-person meeting in May at AW Acres and Bob Larkin grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for attendees. Tons of members and new paddlers showed up, and we're excited to bring them into the fold! We hope to have meetings at Rock House Brewing again once bar and restaurant restrictions are lifted.
- We intend to restart roll sessions sometime in June. Although local pools still have a lot of COVID restrictions, we will at a minimum be hosting rolling sessions on the Elkhorn. Stay tuned for more details to come!
- We will be launching a new (much improved!) website within the next few weeks!
- We will be hosting the Beginner's Clinic the last weekend of August, so mark your calendars! More details to follow on that soon.

Thank you everyone for sticking with us during this life-changing and organization-rattling year. Your steering committee has worked diligently behind the scenes all year to keep the spirit alive and keep the momentum building despite the setbacks.

I'm so excited for what the next year holds for the Bluegrass Wildwater Association and our members, and I can't wait to see you on the river!

Your president,  
Sandra Broadus

## **New website coming soon!**

Our current Web Meister, Michael Williams, has a fancy new BWA website to launch for our members later this month. This will make the interface more user-friendly for our members, as well as easier back-end maintenance for the volunteers on the steering committee. Not only will it look nicer and have more features, it'll be cheaper than what we have now!! Win win win!

*Michael needs your help, paddlers! He's filling out the "About Us" section on the new website, and he needs good content! Please send in any stories you have about how the BWA has impacted you or others in a positive way.*

You can reach out to him at: [webmaster@bluegrasswildwater.org](mailto:webmaster@bluegrasswildwater.org)

# BBQ & Elections on the Elkhorn!



This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, June 8th, at 7:30 pm at AW Acres on the Elkhorn. This month will be ELECTIONS for new Steering Committee officers! Bob will be providing BBQ for all who attend, courtesy of your steering committee. *Please bring your own chairs and drinks.*

Any member can run for office. Positions include:

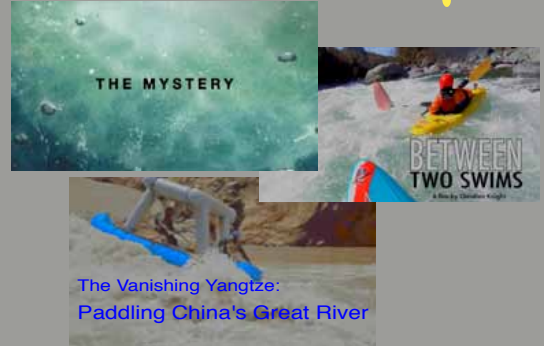
- President (running/current: Sandra Broadus)
- Vice President (vacancy)
- Secretary (running: Robert Watts)
- Treasurer (running/current: Kyle Koeberlein)
- Gear Meister (running/current: Jansen Koeberlein)
- NPFF Director (running/current: Emily Grimes)
- Membership Coordinator (vacancy)
- Member At Large (vacancy)
- Conservation Officer (running: Angus Milton)
- Program Director (running: Floyd Miracle)
- Safety Officer (running/current: Dave Foreman)
- Web Meister (running/current: Michael Williams)
- Newsletter Editor (running/current: Don Spangler)
  
- Past President (not an elected position: Robert Watts)

We welcome competitive elections! However, the positions in which we need the most assistance are the ones for which no one has yet signed up to run. Those are the Vice President (who organizes the annual Spring Beginner's Clinic), the Membership Coordinator (who mails out Elkhorn parking passes each month), and the Member At Large (who fills all holes on the steering committee and helps out across the board).

***We can't wait to see you on Tuesday!***

***As always, non-members are welcome to attend.***

# NPFF 2021 Report



I've had a very difficult time coming up with the words to describe this year's NPFF – not because it was a novel year for us, although there is definitely that – but because the NPFF has always been part of my life, and I definitely did not expect to end up with the Director Role this year. I can remember so much about the NPFF – creating artwork for the kids' poster contest back in the day, wrapping my head around meeting William Neely's grieving wife, jealously watching Tyler Bradt hit on my mom, excitedly being featured in a few of my friend's films that were entered. I remember it all. Which is hilarious because this festival is notorious for the opposite. I always knew that I would take on the Director role for NPFF one day – my Dad created it, I'm a sucker for sentiment & no one ever wants to do it, so I knew it would happen – I never imagined it would be this year, in a pivot to virtual.

My journey as budding NPFF Director started in October. COVID-19 was ramping up in Kentucky and we had a horrendous presence in the Whitehouse. I was scared. Things felt really, really bleak. I cried a few times, but mostly I expressed my emotions by lashing out irrationally as I am wont to do. After a weekend paddling at one of my most favorite seasonal runs and witnessing how callous my community was about the virus, then going to work on Monday morning & watching the very real, very grim reality play out in the hospital (my workplace), I felt hopeless. I did as we all did in October – I turned to my phone, and I turned into a doom scroller. Endlessly pulling the page up on my phone for more. I wanted some inspiration. Some way to channel all of this energy. I tried a "campaign" of sorts to collab with my friend on posters that showed paddlers in masks & social distancing, I pitched in on efforts at the hospital, I supported organizations that were doing what I perceived as good. And then it hit me, The NPFF needed to happen, and it needed to happen online. There wasn't going to be a 2021 NPFF, and I just couldn't wrap my head around that. This year was the most perfect year for a virtual pivot. Folks were home, exhausting streaming services, feeling alone, yearning for inspiration. We needed to feel some sort of connection, and more specifically I needed to feel like I was moving forward. I wanted so badly to raise money for rivers above all because at that moment the future of our planet felt very dark to me.

So, I stopped doom scrolling, and started researching.

As I've already stated, 2020 felt like a year of chaos, but was also a time when artists & activists flourished – tragic events turned into new energy and brought about incredible inspiration that manifested in the form of demonstrations, paintings, poems, increased voter turnout, and ... film festivals!! There were several Film Festivals in 2020 that were either created overnight, or pivoted their format overnight. I found this out, and Boom! My fire was extra lit. I asked to take on the Director role in early December, and I was in touch with a few other outdoor/paddling film festivals around Christmastime. I got some great beta on how to pull it off, but knew our standard February timeline was not going to fly. So, I had a look at calendars, thought about strategies to capture the most amount of dirtbags possible, and landed on April 20th! The most Film Fest & Chill Tuesday of 2021.

This year, we opened up our festival to ticketholders for two whole weeks! From April 13th - April 27th, folks were able to view all 2021 submissions on-demand. We gave away door prizes and rolled out guest host clips during our live event on April 20th. I was very excited that this style would bring the NPFF back to its true roots as a film festival - giving us the space to celebrate the filmmakers, and giving ticketholders time to watch the films.

Through our platform shift, I had the unique opportunity to interview several super stars in the whitewater film world; Aniol Serrasolses, Todd Wells, Mikel Sarasola, Paige Swift and Jeff Springer. It was amazing to conduct these interviews, but all had their separate challenges. I used my lunch breaks at the hospital to head up to vacant rooms to Zoom with each of these folks. Aniol was in Chile under a pretty strict COVID lockdown. We tried several times to record his interview - he had to drive into town to get WiFi, but everything was closed due to curfew, so we made his interview happen from the driver's seat of his car outside of a restaurant in town. Todd, Mikel & I navigated 3 time zones while Todd was on his way into work, and Paige & Jeff were absolute heroes - making time for an interview on the back of another stressful event.

This year was a complete labor of love – between communication platforms & navigating pandemic motivation levels, it was not easy to rally volunteers. NPFF 2021 would not have been possible without the help of a few select individuals, and most notably, my dad – the OG who started it all. At first, dad was not stoked on the idea. Like everyone else, he thought we'd be reinventing the wheel & it would be more hassle than it was worth – but I kept pushing, and he kept caving until eventually he was my right hand man. I'm incredibly fortunate that my dad is pretty tech savvy and is also 100% retired. Dad spent days on end learning how to stream from Vimeo, create GIFs and in general became a problem solving ninja. In new or tricky situations, it's been my experience that people will repeat phrases to themselves. This year, my dad's phrase was "I swear, this feels just like the first NPFF". We were, in fact, reinventing the wheel. I don't think I would have done it without him, and I definitely don't think he would have done it without me - he also kept repeating "I thought I was retired?"

Thanks to our sponsors, we were able to draw in 141 ticketholders, and we gave away items like a winner's choice Jackson Kayak, Aire Couch, IR schwag, Watershed drybag, MKC course package, and a Custom Alpacka Raft. Sam Morrison, Christin Knight, Tommy Penick, and Larry Meisner all took home gold in their respective categories (for a full results, visit [npff.org](http://npff.org)), and we raised over \$4k which we will turn around and donate to American Whitewater & Nepal River Conservation Trust. For an event that was slated to fall victim to COVID, I'd say this year was a knock it out of the park success! We are making plans to be back in person next year, but will keep a lot of the virtual elements we rolled out this year. Look for a hybrid of sorts for NPFF 2022, comin' back atcha in February! Until then, check out how you can get involved with our Roadshows at [npff.org](http://npff.org). Thanks so much for your support.

## National Paddling Film Festival 2021 Winners

### AMATEUR

#### FIRST PLACE

The Vanishing Yangtze: Paddling China's Great River by Sam Morrison

#### SECOND PLACE

A Love Story by Elena Wood

#### THIRD PLACE

Norfolk Paddlers and How to Spot Them by Daniel Salliss

### ACCOMPLISHED AMATEUR

#### FIRST PLACE

Between Two Swims by Christian Knight

#### SECOND PLACE

Edge of Horizon by Brian Knight

#### THIRD PLACE

First Descent of the Tortue by Jean Fecteau

### PROFESSIONAL

#### FIRST PLACE

The Mystery by Tommy Penick

#### SECOND PLACE

A Year of Home Runs by Eric Adsit

#### THIRD PLACE

The Tears of Shiva by Mikel Sarasola

### BEST OF SHOW

The Mystery by Tom my Penick

# Eddy Lines of Interest

## BWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 4/5/2021

### Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association was held. Meeting called to order 7:40 PM.

### Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present
Sandra Broadus	President	Y
Emily Grimes	Vice President	N
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	Y
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	Y
Bob Larkin	River Conservation Liaison	Y
Dave Foreman	Safety Officer	Y
Clay Warren	Program Director	N
Regina Hatfield	Film Festival Coordinator	N
Michael Williams	Web Meister	Y
Jansen Koeberlein	Gear Meister	N
Gus Milton	Member At Large	N
William Samples	Membership Coordinator	Y
Robert Watts	Past President	Y

### Officer Reports

- Michael - Website update, looking at Squarespace \$54 / month will test. Discussion of future of forum, tabled until a later date
- Dave - looking at summer roll sessions at Tates creek, may need to increase price. To be discussed at later meeting
- Kyle - Reminder not to discuss the lawsuit

### New Business

- Bob - Red River cleanup May 8th support, motion to grant up to \$300 to support RR cleanup. Motion seconded and passed.
- Looking at clinic in August location TBD
- Possible dam removal party, tabled until general meeting
- Sandra answers lawsuit questions with consensus of committee members

### Adjournment

Club Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 4/5/2021 @ 9:00 P.M. and it was seconded by Club Member. The motion was carried.

Walt Hummel 4/5/2021

Secretary Date of approval

## BWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 5/4/2021

### Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association was held. Meeting called to order 7:40 PM.

### Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present
Sandra Broadus	President	Y
Emily Grimes	Vice President	N
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	Y
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	N
Bob Larkin	River Conservation Liaison	Y
Dave Foreman	Safety Officer	Y
Clay Warren	Program Director	N
Emily Grimes	Film Festival Coordinator	Y
Michael Williams	Web Meister	Y
Jansen Koeberlein	Gear Meister	Y
Gus Milton	Member At Large	N
William Samples	Membership Coordinator	N
Robert Watts	Past President	Y

### Officer Reports

- Michael - Website working on website update
- Dave - Roll sessions on hold, looking at options
- Sandra - no new information on lawsuit, looking at June general meeting at AW
- Bob - Red River cleanup Mothers day
- NPFF - 141 people bought tickets

### New Business

- Election for Steering Committee member in June, accepting nominations

### Adjournment

Club Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 5/4/2021 @ 8:00 P.M. and it was seconded by Club Member. The motion was carried.

Walt Hummel 5/4/2021

Secretary Date of approval



## BWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 5/11/2021

### Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association was held. Meeting called to order 7:35 PM.

### Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present
Sandra Broadus	President	Y
Emily Grimes	Vice President/NPFF Coordinator	Y
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	N
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	N
Bob Larkin	River Conservation Liaison	Y
Dave Foreman	Safety Officer	Y
Clay Warren	Program Director	Y
Regina Hatfield	Film Festival Coordinator	N
Michael Williams	Web Meister	Y
Jansen Koeberlein	Gear Meister	N
Gus Milton	Member At Large	N
William Samples	Membership Coordinator	N
Robert Watts	Past President	N

### Officer Reports / New Business

- Michael discussed new website
  - Moving to Squarespace adding new features
- Emily Grimes
  - NPFF raised \$4200
- Hanley discussed the late summer clinic last week of August location TBD
  - Discussed the possibility of mini clinics
- Dave talked about roll sessions, can't get access to a pool considering other options
- Officer elections in June, nominations being accepted

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned on 5/11/2021 @ 8:30 P.M.

Walt Hummel

5/11/2021

Secretary

Date of approval

## BWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 6/11

### Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association was held. Meeting called to order 7:30 PM.

### Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Name	Office	Present
Sandra Broadus	President	Y
Emily Grimes	Vice President	Y
Walt Hummel	Secretary	Y
Kyle Koeberlein	Treasurer	N
Don Spangler	Newsletter Editor	N
Bob Larkin	River Conservation Liaison	Y
Dave Foreman	Safety Officer	N
Clay Warren	Program Director	Y
Regina Hatfield	Film Festival Coordinator	N
Michael Williams	Web Meister	Y
Jansen Koeberlein	Gear Meister	N
Gus Milton	Member At Large	Y
William Samples	Membership Coordinator	Y
Robert Watts	Past President	Y

### Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association was held. Meeting called to order 7:30 PM. Steering Committee Members in Attendance

### Officer Reports

- Michael - Updated website using Squarespace ready to go live. Made motion to spend \$69 for the first month for testing prior to getting and annual subscription
  - Motion seconded and passed no dissenting votes
- Did a roll session on the river
- Sandra - elections this month, need VP candidate
- Emily - Looking for new location for NPFF

### New Business

- Bob - Will provide BBQ for June general meeting
  - Motion made to provide \$200 for food costs. Motion seconded and passed

### Adjournment

Club Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting on 6/11/2021 @ 8:00 P.M. and it was seconded by Club Member. The motion was carried.

Walt Hummel

6/1/2021

Secretary

Date of approval