

NORTHWEST FOCUS

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Fred Schueler and Aleta Karstad in Ottawa on International Biodiversity Day (May 22, 2010)

What is River Management?

by Frederick W. Schueler

My wife Aleta and I constitute the Bishops Mills Natural History Centre (BMNHC) as a “mom & pop” research institute in Ontario, Canada, with the goal of studying conspicuous but neglected aspects of ecological change. We find many aspects of rivers to be conspicuously neglected, and we’ve developed low cost protocols for remedying aspects of this neglect. We work with some agencies of the conservation bureaucracy including the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ontario Freshwater Mussel Recovery Team, and South Nation Conservation Authority, and have assisted a number of NIMBY’s who were unsettled by plans to change rivers near their homes, but mostly we study and publicize those groups of organisms that are widely noticed but not recognized to species, and ecosystems and communi-

ties that are rapidly changing for whatever reasons.

Mike Greco signed me up as a member of the River Management Society in 2005-2006, but I find that only 28 messages from the e-mail list persist in my archives. I found the problem with the RMS listserve and publications was that they were about managing and regulating recreational use of the rivers in the USA and were about management of people, not of the river itself. It seemed that the US RMS was a professional organization of regulators of aquatic entertainment and enforcers of riverine regulations, and while this doesn’t interface with my status as an unemployable generalist, it also doesn’t seem to be something that’s done as a profession in Canada.

It might be possible to derive the institutional differences from the national

vision statements of “Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness” vs “Peace, order, and good government,” but here I’ll just notice the existence of the differences. It’s also true that many Canadian rivers are so interrupted that they seem more like overflow valves than like entities, with the result that official attention is often focused on natural and artificial lakes, rather than on the running water that connects them.

The International Joint Commission more-or-less handles the international boundary rivers, which are just joins between, and overflow from, the Great Lakes. In Ontario, watershed-delimited Conservation Authorities manage inland rivers and streams, the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans divide up the responsibility for the fauna in a

(continued on page 14)

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*The mission of RMS is to support
professionals who study, protect, and
manage North America's rivers.*

Editorial Policy: Articles are not edited for
content and may not reflect the position,
endorsement, or mission of RMS. The
purpose of this policy is to encourage the
free exchange of ideas concerning river
management issues in an open forum of
communication and networking among the
RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of
view are those of the author and not RMS.

Executive Director's Eddy



I've just returned from
a super successful
2011 River Manage-
ment Workshop and

30th Annual International Submerged
Lands Management Conference. I stand in
awe of the tremendous effort put forth by
the Steering Committee and the value cre-
ated by our partnership with Submerged
Lands Conference colleagues. I am also
excited about the many opportunities
unfolding before river professionals due to
the intersection of new national initiatives.
Huge thanks go to the conference Co-
Chairs Helen Clough (Chief, Division of
Conservation Planning & Policy, US Fish
and Wildlife Service) and David Schade
(Navigability Subunit Manager, Division
of Mining Land and Water, Alaska Depart-
ment of Natural Resources). These two
rallied their organizations and colleagues
for support and participation that enabled
the workshop/conference to become the
most well-attended workshop in RMS his-
tory. Beyond that, they were both willing
to go shoulder-to-shoulder with creativ-
ity and resourcefulness, enabling us to
address details and absorb disruptions that
might have otherwise caused permanent
heartache.

As we saw through our partner-
ship with NARRP in 2010, 1+1= 3. Not
only did our attendance benefit from
our allegiance with those working with
submerged lands issues, the program was
broadened beautifully and attendees were
able to learn about new and relevant areas
of expertise.

Enormous contributions also flowed
from RMS Alaska Chapter officers Me-
lissa Blair, David Griffin, Jennifer Reed
and Bill Overbaugh and additional heroes
of the logistics planning and field ses-
sions include: Janet Schmidt, Alison Rein,
Jorjena Daly, Mary Price and Paul Clark
(others helped out as well, so I hope not to
be offending anyone). Cassie Thomas, Jen
Reed, Donita Cotter and others produced
an informative half-day workshop cover-



ing Wild and Scenic Rivers' Outstanding
Remarkable Values, as well. RMS Board
President Steve Johnson was our budget
guide and Lee Larson our financial assist
to help keep the event accounting and
bookkeeping in order.

We learned about national initiatives
budding from America's Great Outdoors
proclamation which seek to improve both
urban rivers and look at opportunities to
integrate outdoor activity into the lives of
families and kids as avenues of learning
for future river professionals. We learned
how holistic management, technical mod-
els and the effects of global warming are
combining, and in some cases colliding
to renew models of resource planning and
management. As rivers become more pre-
cious our accomplishments are evermore
part of a continuum, and our 2012 RMS
Symposium in Asheville, North Carolina,
(April 24-26) will provide a 'next' oppor-
tunity to continue the dialogue.

If you contributed to this year's work-
shop as a volunteer, presenter or attendee:
thank you for investing in our future. If
you were not able to make it, we'll let you
make up to the colleagues who missed you
by joining us in Asheville next spring! ♦

Risa Shimoda
RMS Executive Director



Skilak Lake, Alaska. Photo: Kristina Rylands



(L to R) River managers Cassie Thomas, Tracy Atkins, Jennifer Reed, and Mary Price at Portage Creek, Alaska. Photo: Kristina Rylands



2011 workshop co-chairs Helen Clough (L), and David Schade (R), with Steve Johnson, RMS President. Photo: Debbie Johnson



Workshop participants learned about shoreline protection issues and bear/people management on the Russian River. Photo: Steve Johnson



Launch point for the packraft float down Portage Creek, Alaska. Photo: Mary Price



Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council members in Alaska. From left, Donita Cotter (USFWS), Jim MacCartney (NPS), Joan Harn (NPS), Kristina Rylands (NPS), Allen Miller (USFWS). Photo: Kristina Rylands

(Pack) Rafting *Alaska* Style

by Kevin Colburn

Can new technology bring us closer to nature? I pondered this paradox while hiking through the Alaskan bush just up the valley from the 2011 River Management Workshop. The new 5-pound boat in my daypack was making me think. Like nylon tents, synthetic climbing ropes, and plastic kayaks – pack rafts have created a whole new world of backcountry adventures. When the trail hit the river we blew up the boats, sat on the inflatable seats, velcroed our sprayskirts on, grabbed our kayak paddles, and romped our way down the incredibly scenic Glacier Creek. We made it through the twisting canyon and open gravel sections just in time for a take-out beer at the event banquet.

Small, bouncy, and approachable to the point of embarrassing cuteness, pack rafts have quickly become a popular means of exploring the vast Alaskan backcountry. No longer do Alaskans need to hire a plane, helicopter, or jet boat to motor them and their gear to remote put-ins. No longer are they limited by how far they can carry their 50 pound kayaks and gear. No longer are hikers stymied by river crossings or limited to terrestrial travel. These little game-changers are catching on in the lower 48 too, where backcountry

enthusiasts of all stripes are dreaming up new mixed land and water trips through remote areas.

This recent workshop, held in Girdwood, Alaska, was the perfect venue for river managers to learn about pack rafts. The pack raft enthusiasts at the workshop hosted a pool session at the resort on Thursday evening where attendees could blow up a boat and paddle around the pool. Participants learned about the boats, practiced basic paddle strokes, and got first hand experience. Mostly though, we all just had fun paddling around and bouncing off each other.

The next day we were off for our first ever RMS pack raft trip! Portage Creek was picked as a destination because it was beautiful, easy enough for beginners, and convenient for those needing to get to the airport for evening flights. The put in provided some stunning photo opportunities, however we had to weigh down our boats so they didn't blow away in the mild wind while we paused for a group shot. Once on the water it became clear that there was not very much of it. Glacial blue/grey, the water hid an endless array of rocks just beneath the surface.

While paddling experiences varied

widely among our group, everyone did a great job of maneuvering their stable little boats through easy rapids and rock gardens. Nine of us paddled, bounced, and laughed our way down the river. We even learned "the starfish," a pack rafting technique in which paddlers lie belly-down on their boats with arms and legs spread out to lessen the amount of water the boats draft. The starfish grants a unique up-close perspective of the river, and also works! As we paddled along we were treated to scenes of hanging glaciers, snowy mountains, and a riparian area in spring's first blush. All too soon we reached the take out and headed to our respective corners of the world: Washington DC, California, and Colorado to name a few.

We were all left to consider the management issues that were created with the invention of the pack raft. Pack rafts blur the line between a hiking trip and a paddling trip, questioning which (if any) permits may apply. They are a single chamber craft and thus not explicitly allowed on some tightly regulated rivers.

*Portage Creek put-in. Sitting, in front: Jennifer Reed
Left to right: Tracy Atkins, Kevin Colburn,
Kristina Rylands, Risa Shimoda, Tina Blankenstein,
Jim MacCartney, Mary Price, Rand Price*



They are a growing low-impact means of exploring Wild and Scenic rivers, yet most river management plans were drafted before the invention of the pack raft. They will lead to increased use on certain rivers and streams that are ideal for pack rafting. Assumptions about reasonable put-ins, take-outs, and carry-in distances are largely irrelevant to pack rafters. And of course, there is the question of just how popular this activity will become, which is anyone's guess.

So can new technology bring us closer to nature? For me it can – if the new technology is simpler than the current alternative and if it inspires me to explore ever deeper into the backcountry. Many people like myself connect most strongly with special places through paddling rivers, and for certain rivers pack rafts are the key that unlock the mysteries of a place. These experiences forge a strong connection to a landscape, a strong stewardship ethic, and lasting memories. It is up to river managers to wrap their heads around this emerging means of exploring rivers, and what better way to start than to jump in a pack raft and head down a river!

Thanks to all who helped make the RMS pack rafting trip a big success, especially Jorjena Daly and Mary Price. ♦

Welcome New *Professional* Members

Gerald (Jay) Milot, Owner, Caribou Springs Watershed Solutions, ME

Craig Johnson, Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, ID

Nikki Moore, Endangered Species Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, DC

Daniel Thomas, River Ranger, Bureau of Land Management, OR

Andrew Maddox, River Ranger Supervisor, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, CO

Jennifer Carpenter, Park Planner, Grand Teton National Park, WY

Curtis Booher, Supervisory Park Manager, Bureau of Land Management, OR

Alan Vandiver, District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, OR

Ed Skieens, River Ranger, Bureau of Land Management, OR

Grant Werschull, Executive Director (SRA) and President (CS),
Smith River Alliance and Conservation Solutions, CA

Packrafts on Portage Creek, Alaska. Photos: Kevin Colburn



River Manager of the Year

2011 RMS
Award Winners

For release: June 6, 2011

Contact: Christina Lilienthal (541) 416-6889

Prineville Employee Named 'River Manager of the Year'

Prineville, Ore. -- Heidi Mottl, outdoor recreation planner for the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Crook County resident, was presented today with a national 'River Manager of the Year' award. Bestowed by the River Management Society (RMS), a national non-profit professional organization headquartered in Maryland, Mottl was nominated for this prestigious award by commercial river outfitters, agency partners, her past and current supervisors, and BLM employees.

For more than fifteen years, Mottl has provided leadership in promoting and protecting natural, cultural and recreational resources on the John Day Wild & Scenic River including establishment of an integrated river management plan. Mottl's initiatives to increase management of grazing and off-road vehicle use in riparian areas, protect cultural and paleontological

values, enhance campsites, education, deter dumping and vandalism, and educate boaters on safety and proper etiquette, all contributed to improved conditions.

Working effectively and cooperatively with user groups, private landowners and general public land visitors, she elicited improved river condition through cooperation and encouraged behavior modification through education rather than law enforcement. Private landowners are encouraged to participate in river enhancement efforts and have a voice in overall river management.

Long-term partnerships were established to protect and manage the John Day Wild & Scenic River corridor. Mottl led an interagency group, comprised of four state agencies, three county governments, tribal governments and the BLM. This group collaboratively worked together toward river value protection and enhancement across jurisdictions.

Mottl promotes a positive and fulfilling experience for all who participate in the management and use of the John

Heidi Mottl, River Manager of the Year



Day River. This includes fostering good relationships with noncommercial river users and commercial permittees. In 2011, a web-based limited access permit system was developed and implemented, under her guidance, where boaters obtain comprehensive river information and group permits on a 24/7 basis. The system has been successful in spreading use along the river corridor and reducing user conflict.

In the words of Associate District Manager Steve Robertson, "Heidi Mottl is a very dedicated employee; committed to providing the highest level of service to the people who visit our Wild & Scenic Rivers. We are honored that she has been nationally recognized for her achievements."

Additional information about the Prineville District is available on-line at: blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/

The BLM manages more land – 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands. ♦

Outstanding Contribution to River Management

The River Management Society awarded American Whitewater (AW) and Executive Director, Mark Singleton, with the Outstanding Contribution to River Management Award in Girdwood, Alaska. Criteria for this award includes:

- Advanced the field of river management through contributions in areas such as science, education, interpretation, research, and/or law enforcement;
- Developed innovative (or creatively adapted) river management techniques;
- Organized conferences/meetings that advanced river management as a science and as a profession;
- Developed or implemented new communication techniques to coordinate and connect managers;
- Provided opportunities for increased awareness by citizens and river visitors of their role in caring for rivers and watersheds; and/or
- Was an outstanding advocate for and promoted professional river management and outdoor ethics.

“The achievements this award represents would not have been possible without a very dedicated staff at American Whitewater and close collaboration with our agency partners at the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Corps of Engineers,” said Singleton.

Mark Singleton joined AW as Executive Director in November of 2004. Under Mark’s leadership, American Whitewater’s historically strong conservation and access program has been refocused and transformed into River Stewardship, an integrated approach to the mission work of AW. Stewardship recognizes the organization’s ongoing commitment to the rivers we work to restore and protect; is an umbrella that covers the major project areas of AW; includes an educational approach and tools for turning recreational users into conservation advocates; builds partnerships with land management agencies; and, enhances the public perception of boaters.

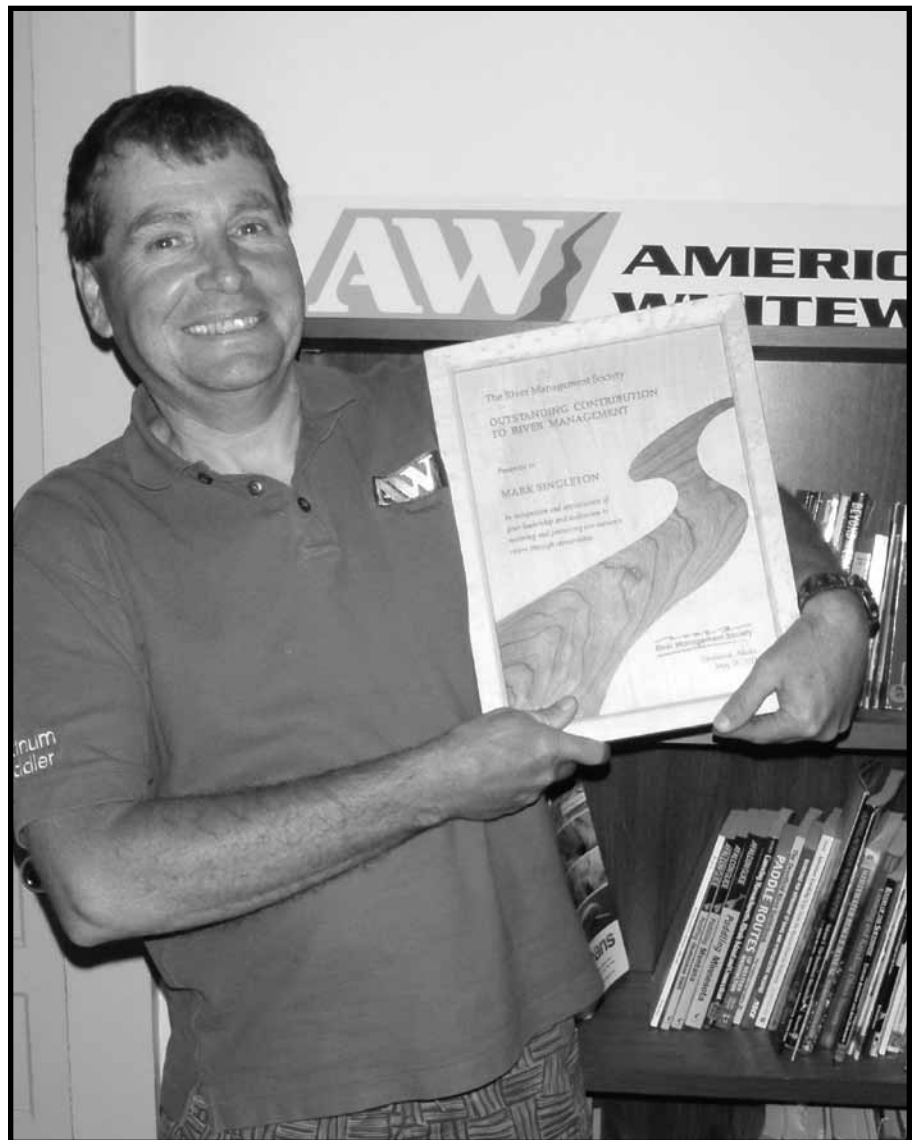
River Stewardship embraces a regional model. American Whitewater is successfully building relationships within communities to improve the quality and quantity of whitewater recreation and conservation in their backyards. Local staff and board representation, coupled with empowered volunteers, makes American Whitewater more effective fulfilling our mission “to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.”

Mark is also the current Chairman of the Outdoor Alliance, a coalition of six human-powered outdoor recreation groups which have a long tradition of preserving public

access to America’s Outdoors. They work together to protect the places we care about with a goal of making a difference - for today and tomorrow. Members of the Outdoor Alliance include: Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Hiking Society American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and Winter Wildlands Alliance. Collectively, the Outdoor Alliance has members in all fifty states and a network of almost 1,400 local clubs and advocacy groups across the nation. The coalition represents the millions of Americans who hike, paddle, climb, mountain bike, ski and snowshoe on our nation’s public lands and waters.

Singleton has over two decades of involvement in the marketing of outdoor activities and nature based tourism. From 1990 to 2003 Singleton led the marketing efforts of Nantahala Outdoor Center as Marketing Vice President. He is also a past board member of the Outdoor Industry Association. For seven years he represented the interests of outdoor recreation on the North Carolina Division of Travel and Tourism Board. ♦

Mark Singleton, Outstanding Contribution to River Management



Destination *Montana*

The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

by Mark Schaefer

It was grey and rainy on the last day of May a little over two hundred years ago. On a bluff above the great river, two teenage boys, Red Tail Feathers and Hawk Flying In A Rainbow crouched unmoving beside a vertical pillar of white sandstone. Behind them rose more of the white sandstone, sculpted by the forces of nature into sheer cliffs, ridges and deep crevasses. Stitched into the whiteness were seams of dark, volcanic rock, in some places stacked like brickwork, in others cast about in piles with no apparent pattern. The landscape, peppered with sagebrush, yucca, and a few sparse pines was ideally suited to the motionless watchers. Several hundred yards in front of and below them the river hissed with an occasional gurgle, then a bulge breaking the surface, reminding them of the sheer power it possessed, and the reverence their people held for it. Opaque, cold, almost sullen in appearance, the river seemed to copy the gloom of the sky. On this day however, at this moment, the river was not the focus of their attention. On the level bottomland between the river and their sentinel's perch, three men, strange looking, yet still men, slipped through some cottonwoods not more than an arrow's flight away. Just ahead of these men on the river bank itself, two more men, one, a real person, the other, also strange, strode purposefully along. Down river, beyond a bend obscured by drizzle, voices muffled by the distance and dreary conditions foretold of more strange men. Eyes wide open, hands over mouths, apprehensive yet intrigued, the boys watched. From this day forward it will be remembered that Indians had discovered Lewis and Clark.

The storyline

above is a different perspective on well known facts that certainly occurred on what is now known as the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, the unofficial centerpiece of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Located in north central Montana and managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office, the Monument was designated in 2001. With approximately 377,000 acres of public lands including portions of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail as well as the 149 mile section of the Wild and Scenic there is plenty of space to roam.

The river is still flowing with power, perhaps not as it did when the boys silently watched two centuries ago, but flowing nonetheless as it beckons to the modern adventurer in search of a truly sublime experience. The Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan highlights; "the uniqueness, special values and wild and scenic qualities that were instrumental in the designation on October

12, 1976. Of special note is the fact that the Upper Missouri contains segments of all three river classifications contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. These classifications are Wild, Scenic and Recreational. To this day the Upper Missouri remains relatively unchanged and its settings vary from riparian vegetation, to the unique and beautiful "White Cliffs", to the sharply carved and rugged "Badlands", to the rolling, pine and juniper covered slopes of the "Breaks". These contrasting habitats provide for a diverse and plentiful wildlife population, numerous recreational opportunities, livestock grazing and other multiple use activities". Though the Upper Missouri lacks the stimulating whitewater runs much sought after by thrill seekers it more than makes up for the river runners "fix" with its mesmerizing glimpse of the American west as it once was. For the family who plays together, the Upper Missouri caters to boaters of all degrees, from the beginning novice to the expert paddler to the leisurely motor boat aficionado.

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Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River





Old powerhouse and construction of new powerhouse.
Photo: Chris Dantic

PPLM Making a Positive *Splash* on the Missouri River

by Chris Dantic

After 100 years of existence the Rainbow Powerhouse on the Missouri River is getting an upgrade. The Rainbow Powerhouse and Dam, which started operating in 1910, are located on the Missouri River above Rainbow Waterfalls, near Great Falls, MT. The famous Lewis and Clark Expedition portaged around five waterfalls including Rainbow Waterfall in 1805. The powerhouse, owned by utility company Pennsylvania Power & Light – Montana (PPLM), is a run-of-the-river facility that provides electricity to Northwestern Energy. Northwestern Energy then distributes the electricity.

The eight generating units that produce the electricity will be replaced by one large generator that will be able to produce 62 megawatts of electricity compared to the 37 megawatts of electricity the powerhouse currently turns out. The new powerhouse will not only increase electricity but also help the environment. The Missouri River near Great Falls is a popular fishery and home to Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Walleye, Perch and more. The new single turbine will offer a significantly more fish-friendly design than the current eight turbines. The new turbine will include a wider flow passage, fewer rotating surfaces and improvements to the turbine intake screens. These improvements will help decrease any loss of fish. The 230 million dollar project will also increase clean-renewable power by 70% and will be completed in spring 2012.

PPLM also helps in creating fishing access sites and funding river recreation projects for recreationists. For example, near Great Falls, four acres of Missouri riverfront property was purchased by PPLM and transferred in 2010 to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The four acres were created into a fishing access site. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks manage over 300 fishing access sites which help the public access streams, rivers and lakes throughout Montana. PPLM also works with a local canoe club to offer free shuttle service for paddlers around the five dams at Great Falls.

The Missouri-Madison River Fund is a nonprofit corporation formed to oversee a trust fund PPLM contributed to which helps support the acquisition, development, and operation and maintenance of recreation resources in the Missouri and Madison River corridors. Since 2006, River Fund has successfully funded more than \$3 million in recreation improvements for 43 projects along the Missouri and Madison rivers, with \$1 million from River Fund, \$500,000 from PPLM, and \$1.5 million from agencies and other partners. Some of these projects include repairing and preserving trails along the Missouri River, improving fishing access sites and state parks, and adding new docks and boat launches along the Missouri and Madison rivers. With improving sites and creating opportunities for river recreationists, PPLM is definitely making a positive impact. ♦

A Permit System is Born —

Creating a Web Based Common Pool for the John Day

by Tom Mottl

The John Day River is one of the last free flowing river systems in the lower 48 states, including the main stem and three major forks. With its headwaters in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon, the river makes a 281-mile journey to the Columbia River, flowing through the towns of John Day, Kimberly, Spray and Service Creek. The river flows through a high desert environment; past irrigated agricultural fields and through extensive stretches

of deep wilderness canyons with an occasional Class II or III rapid. The John Day is renowned for its excellent year round small mouth bass fishing and fall steelhead runs. It is a classic spring/early summer float suited for families with intermediate boating skills.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Prineville District, manages about 270 miles of the river system, of which, 195 miles is designated Wild and Scenic under the 1988 Oregon Omnibus Wild And Scenic Rivers Act. BLM maintains 15 developed sites and is responsible for three Wilderness Study Areas and one recently designated Wilderness Area adjacent to the river.

The river management plan for the John Day (River Plan) was completed in 2001, after some encouragement from a law suit filed by the Confederated Tribes. The Prineville District has done its best to manage six Wild and Scenic Rivers covering over 400 miles including the most complex recreational river – the Lower Deschutes. This one office has the most designated river miles managed by one office in the Federal system.

Despite the lack of funding, BLM has managed to implement the River Plan and transform the riparian system from both



John Day River, Oregon. Photo: Patrick Kollodge

an ecological and social perspective. This article will focus on the social aspects of management but there is another great story to tell on the improvement in the riparian conditions due to modification of grazing systems along the river.

Management of boating use (the primary recreation users) began in 1998 with the implementation of a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) monitoring program including boater registration at the launch sites. River use climbed from about 10,000 boater days to 20,000 boater days between 1998 and 2008. Use fluctuates from year to year due to changes in the floatable season, however the general trend has been increasing daily and annual use levels. A moratorium on new commercial outfitters was instituted in 1998. More intensive management followed the completion of the river management plan in 2001, including non-permit measures to spread boating use to less crowded time periods. Campsites on the more popular sections were often filled to capacity on the busiest weekends from late May through early July. When all available sites are filled, boaters either camp on private property, overload existing sites or pioneer new sites in not so desirable places.

various access points. The allocation method and permit system utilized to implement these limits are unique for western river management. The River Plan approved a common pool allocation approach similar to that used on the Lower Deschutes River. Under common pool, both commercial and noncommercial use is assigned in the same manner out of the allowable use limit. Both use types compete equally for launches on the John Day. On the Lower Deschutes use is assigned by user days versus launches. On the John Day, limited launches are issued first come first serve through an online website with a multi-phase block release system. The permit system website is housed with a partner agency, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation.

Boaters were notified in late 2010 that limited boating permits would be available in the spring of 2011. Trip Leaders initially obtain a permit reservation through the website. They must confirm their permit online between 7 and 30 days prior to the launch date. Upon confirmation, the trip leader can print the permit on their local printer. The permit contains a two dimensional bar code containing all the pertinent permit information. As of the

(continued on next page)

Salmon River *Cleanup*

by Jeff Christenson

The Salmon-Challis National Forest and Idaho Falls District Bureau of Land Management (Challis and Salmon Field Offices) will celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD) with an extensive Salmon River Cleanup effort on August 20, 2011. This interagency project will recruit volunteers to clean the banks of approximately 130 miles of the Upper Salmon River from the town of Clayton, Idaho, down to Corn Creek, the launch point for the Wild and Scenic stretch of the Main Salmon. The river will be divided into 23 manageable sections so volunteers can pre-select their preferred stretch of water to float and clean.

(John Day, cont.)

publication of this article, two 2011 release phases have been successfully completed with no hitches. To access the John Day Boating Permit System, visit www.johndayboaterpermit.com to see for yourself how the system works. Of course don't complete a permit application unless you intend to take the trip.

As the first field season begins, the BLM will be monitoring the permit system carefully and listening to the public for suggestions on how to improve the system for 2012. So far BLM has received favorable customer reports and media coverage regarding the initiation of limited entry. ♦

Tom Mottl is retired from his position as Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau of Land Management.

At the end of the day, the BLM and USFS will host a recognition barbecue at Morgan Bar Campground where prizes donated by AIRE, NRS, and others will be handed out for a variety of categories such as 'most unique trash' and 'most trash collected'. A local Americana band, Honey and Pear, will provide entertainment. The BLM will offer free camping at Morgan Bar for interested volunteers.

Organizers are also planning a significant and fun, educational component for the day. A bird identification game is in the works and topics of discussions that will be stressed throughout the day include threats of aquatic invasive species, river and boating safety, and Leave No Trace ethics.

For those who may not be familiar with NPLD, the Salmon River Cleanup will be one of more than 2,000 events hosted throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. NPLD is the nation's largest one-day volunteer event in support of public lands with volunteer efforts equal to approximately \$15 million in improvements across the country. NPLD is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation, supporting the goals of the America's Great Outdoors and the Let's Move Outside initiatives by offering activities at sites around the country to reconnect Americans to the outdoors and encourage family recreation. It provides Americans the chance to learn about, and learn to appreciate, the outstanding natural and recreational opportunities in their own "backyards." ♦

Fisherman enjoying the Salmon River, along part of the clean up area near Challis, Idaho.



Fishing for Serenity

How wounded soldiers and other combat veterans find peace with a fly rod.

by Tom Dickson

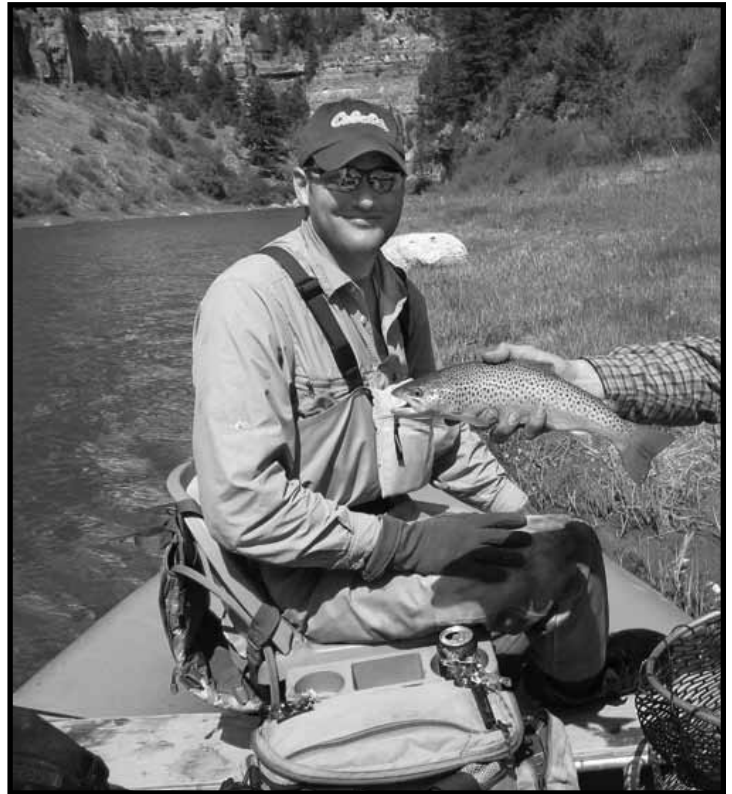
[From the May-June 2011 issue of *Montana Outdoors*. Used with permission. Tom Dickson is editor of *Montana Outdoors*.]

Captain John Gehring lets out a whoop and raises his fly rod into the air, his reel singing as the taut line steadily pulls against the drag. Just one year ago Gehring and his helicopter crew of Montana National Guard aviators were in Basra, Iraq, helping an Army infantry division fight the United States' prolonged war in that country. But on this sunny summer day on the Missouri River near Craig, the soldier is battling nothing more dangerous than a big rainbow trout.

For some military men and women returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, assimilating into normal life can be a psychological and emotional struggle, says Carroll Jenkins, a Helena psychiatric social worker who helps veterans. Stress, depression, and anxiety are commonplace. In some cases they result from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is diagnosed in 12 to 15 percent of returning soldiers. Those with head and spine injuries, limb loss, paralysis, and other physical damage also grapple with disability and pain as well as war's psychological aftershocks. "The stresses that come from combat are extremely challenging," says Jenkins, a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. "The body chemistry can actually change when a person is in a state of constant hypervigilance for long periods. Then they come home and there's no need for that anymore, and it can be real difficult to cope."

Fly-fishing, it turns out, can help. "Natural methods of relaxation such as fly-fishing can be like physical therapy for the brain and the spirit," Jenkins says. To help soldiers find that mental and emotional therapy, the Pat Barnes Chapter of Trout Unlimited launched Montana Healing Waters. The program teaches veterans to fly-fish and uses the sport's serenity and grace to smooth civilian reentry.

The program is a partner with Maryland-based Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a national program created by retired Navy Captain Ed Nicholson. While recovering from cancer surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the 30-year-veteran saw soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan struggling to cope with their new injuries and disabilities. A longtime angler, Nicholson thought wounded vets might benefit from time on the water. He started the nonprofit Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing in 2005. That same year Mike Geary, owner of Lewis and Clark Expeditions in Helena, contacted Nicholson and offered to take a group of combat veterans on a five-day trip down the Smith River. With the help of Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and independent clubs, outfitters, and fly shops, the program has since helped more than 1,200 wounded and other combat veterans.



Success on the Smith: "At first I didn't want to even try [fly-fishing]," says retired Army Captain David Folkerts, severely injured by a roadside bomb. "I thought it would be too hard, and I didn't want to fail." Folkerts says a Montana fly-fishing trip with Project Healing Waters changed his mind.

One of them is retired Army Captain David Folkerts, 30, who was severely injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq. The explosion blew him into the air and sent shrapnel into his face, legs, and left arm, leaving the hand paralyzed. At Walter Reed he met Nicholson, who invited him to fly-fish. "At first I didn't want to even try," Folkerts says. "I thought it would be too hard, and I didn't want to fail." But the wounded soldier soon learned to cast and, with a special device, reel in line with his rod hand. The next year Folkerts took part in a five-day float down the Smith. "That first day I caught a brown trout, and I thought: Hey, I can do this," he says. "At Walter Reed, I was so focused on all the things I couldn't do, but on the trip I started to see the joy that was still out there."

Folkerts volunteered to help on several other trips and was soon hired by Project Healing Waters as operations manager. He says most of the group's programs consist of a day of fly-tying and casting lessons and then anywhere from a day to a week of fishing. Funding comes from individual and corporate contributions, fund-raising events, and donated instruction, travel, guiding, lodging, meals, and equipment. The six-year-old organization now has nearly 100 programs nationwide. Each is run by a local fishing club that works with wounded and disabled veterans at Department of Veteran's Affairs and military hospitals and medical centers, such as Fort Harrison VA Medical Center in Helena.

Army Staff Sergeant Brian Mancini nearly died in 2007

after an armor-piercing explosive blew up the Humvee he was riding in during a firefight in Iraq. Mancini lost one eye, most of his forehead, and his right cheekbone. He spent three weeks in a coma, then underwent 20 operations at Walter Reed. "People see the physical scars, but they can't see where all the emotional healing has to take place," says Mancini, 32. "There are some things doctors can't operate on and can't prescribe pills for."

Since his injury, Mancini has lost his military career and his marriage, and now faces financial hardship. "So obviously a lot of healing needs to take place outside the hospital," he says. "That's where Project Healing Waters comes in. It helps with physical things like balance and hand-eye coordination, but, more important, it provides opportunities for healing to take place in your heart." Fly-fishing may seem like an odd way to help wounded soldiers. The sport requires dexterity, keen eye-hand coordination, and intense concentration—challenging for able-bodied anglers, much less those with one arm or impaired vision.

Mancini, who has participated in Healing Waters trips on the Smith and Clark Fork Rivers, says for him the therapy of fly-fishing comes from the intense sensory engagement. "You're in the middle of a beautiful stream on a sunny afternoon, feeling a cool breeze on your skin, seeing the mountains around you, hearing the trickling of the water—all of that gives you hope and

***Safe Surroundings:** Part of the healing process, say Healing Waters participants, comes from spending time on beautiful rivers like the Smith. But equally important is shooting the breeze with other combat veterans afterward (Smith River campsite, below). Soldiers say spending time in tranquil settings with others with similar physical disabilities or combat experience can go a long way toward repairing psychological wounds. "When I was in the hospital, I didn't want to talk to anyone else who hadn't been through what I'd been through," says David Folkerts. "Then I went on the Smith River trip and was with guys who were in the same situation, and we built some real camaraderie. During that trip I was able to see for the first time in a long time how big and beautiful the world is."*

allows you to believe that life really does have more to offer," he says. "Compare that to combat, where you have this negative bombardment of your sight, smell, and sound, and all your senses are on high alert because your life is on the line. When I'm out fishing, it's a chance for my senses to say that nothing but positive can happen to me out here."

According to Jenkins, learning to master technical skills like tying flies or casting 40 feet of line provides wounded veterans with a strong sense of accomplishment. "I had one client, an Iraq combat veteran with the Montana National Guard, who talked about what she called 'a sense of complete satisfaction and complete balance,' that came when she learned to cast," he says.

Another reason fly-fishing works so well, adds Folkerts, is the scenery. "When you're trout fishing, you're in these incredibly beautiful places," he says. "The peace and tranquility there is the complete opposite of the violence and chaos you experience on the battlefield."

Mancini admits fly-fishing can be physically challenging. "There are times I'll have trout rising all around me and I can't get the depth perception with my one eye to tie on a fly," he says. "I have to ask the guide to tie it on. But that's the thing about Project Healing Waters: People are there to help when you need it, and eventually you learn you can actually do many of these things yourself. You realize that life is far from over."

Healing Waters participants aren't the only ones who benefit. The program's many volunteers say they enjoy giving back to men and women fighting for the United States overseas. "What we try to do is help them find some normalcy in their lives," says river guide and fishing book author Trapper Badovinac, Helena, a Vietnam vet who has guided on several Healing Waters trips.

Geary says donations of time, money, and equipment for trips occur regularly. "People come out of the woodwork to assist. I think helping disabled vets is something that binds us all," he says. Jenkins notes that the involvement of local lodges, fly shops, guides, and others adds to the therapeutic benefits. "It's important for veterans to see their community supporting what

they've done and welcoming them home," he says.

Most soldiers returning from combat zones are not physically injured or diagnosed with psychological trauma. But all endured, and continue to experience, some level of stress. "There was a constant threat to our operating base and aircraft every day," says Gehring several months after his fishing trip on the Missouri. "You're operating in surroundings where you have to be in an intense state all the time. I came home to a divorce and a custody battle for my three sons. It's been tough. Those days on the Missouri were a complete release from that. I can't tell you how often I think of my time on the water. A memory like that is incredibly helpful to me right now." ♦



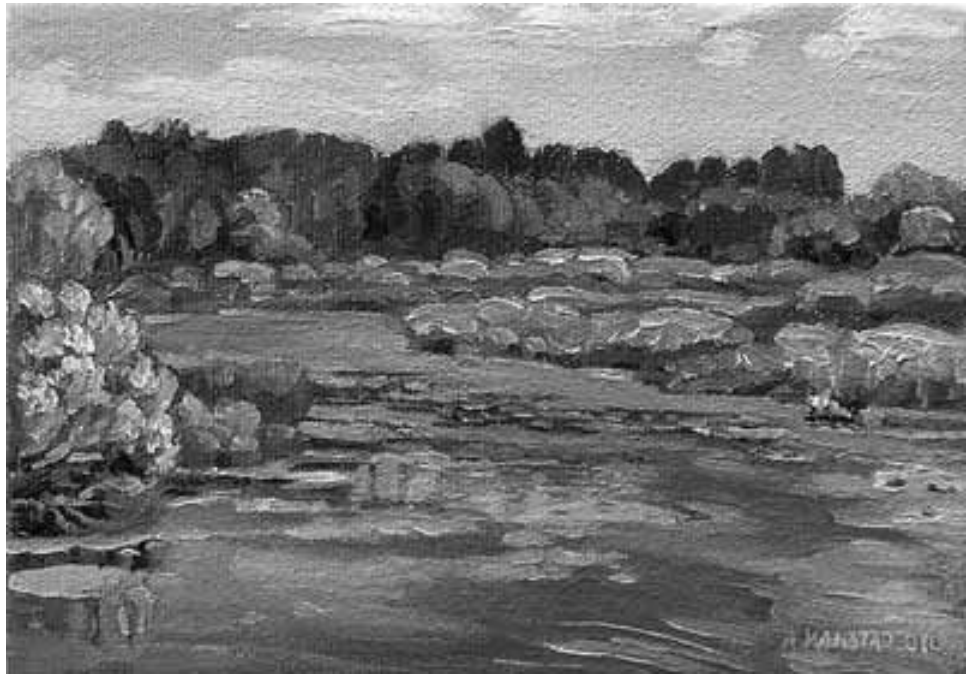
(River Management, from page 1)

complex maze of legislation and agreements and contracts which wouldn't be comprehensible to anyone from a country with a simpler constitution, while federal and provincial ministries of the environment deal with pollution. And they do a pretty good job: when I replicated Francis Robert Latchford's 1880-1882 survey of eastern Ontario Unionid mussels in 1995-1998, I found all the species he'd found, except for one that had been very rare, which requires an anadromous host fish. Even the less enthusiastic Conservation Authorities, with various provincial and federal ministries looking over their shoulders, do a competent job.

In recent decades many "Friends of" groups have organized to look out for various watersheds and their rivers, while lake associations have similar roles around populated lakes. The Ottawa Riverkeepers have recently set up as a 'friends of' for this neglected stream, which is the only river which forms the boundary between provinces. Workers in all these associations and agencies deal with the rivers, but Meredith Brown, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, is just about the only person I know of whose "job" is formally about rivers.

Aleta and I are stuck with seeing beauty and interest everywhere, which makes us uncomprehending of scenic-beauty tourism. We're all in favour of wilderness, but only for the sake of the species that can live there without human interference, not for the whiz urbanites can get by paddling through it without making any contribution to human knowledge in the process. We don't enter reserves or parks unless we're asked to do so to document conditions there, and we haven't ever seen a stream that wasn't worthy of study and appreciation – if it happens to be degraded it would seem to make more sense to us to work for local restoration rather than skeddaddling to some remote place that isn't ruined yet.

For us, river management is maintaining biotic diversity, natural flow regimes and connectedness, and oligotrophic conditions. Elements of these concerns may have been a substratum of what's discussed by the RMS, but they were rarely explicit. I'm not suggesting that overall management is better or worse in either country, but given the different institutional background, what's the available niche for the Canadian RMS in a landscape full of agencies and "friends of" and Waterkeepers? Is there some kind of co-



(2010) "7 June finds me looking upstream from the Nonquon River bridge on Scugog Line 12. The winding Nonquon, which flows north and east into Lake Scugog at Seagrave, Ontario, flows strait enough here to afford a lovely distant view. After it passes beneath my feet, the Nonquon flows for a couple of hundred metres along the road." Excerpt from: karstaddailypaintings.blogspot.com.

ordinating role it can grow to fill? Is it a society for the preservation of the historic fur trade canoe routes? A league for the restoration of oligotrophy? Co-ordinators of peripherally riverine bureaucracies? Friends of Benthic Invertebrates?

So here's a couple of paragraphs about each of our core concerns for river management, beyond the traditional abatement of gross pollution, maintenance of stocks of exploited and officially endangered species, and reduction of soil erosion and flooding:

Biotic diversity: Our background in museum biology leads us to espouse a radical biological egalitarianism: each species counts as one in the tally regardless of whether it's a "species at risk," an "invasive alien," or as common as Green Frogs. In our case this is the "meta-herpetofauna" or "macro" invertebrates which we've surveyed and promoted as interesting over the past thirty-five years – Crayfish, mussels, and terrestrial and aquatic Gastropods – groups of which Ontario has a modest number of species, but which aren't generally identified by naturalists or government agencies at the species level.

It's only possible to understand, and manage, what you know, and the challenge is the same as it has always been: for every naturalist to recognize and record

and document the occurrence of as many species as he or she can, and for agencies to track and regard the status of as many taxa as possible, both natives and introduced aliens.

Natural flow regimes and connectedness: Rivers are ecological connections and migratory pathways, so a dam immediately breaks what were continuous populations into segments. Some can endure this, and some can't. Even species that aren't usually thought of as migratory may be limited by dams: we've found that Mudpuppies aren't found upstream of the lowermost dams or weirs on the tributaries of the Rideau River, for example, though we don't understand why. If a species of mussel, for another example, can't live in an impoundment or a Zebra Mussel-infested mainstream, those fragments of the species which happened to live in tributaries suddenly become isolated populations. The James Bay hydro dams in Quebec eliminated many populations of the anadromous fish on which the local People depended, and Eels, the watery connectors of the entire Western Hemisphere, are kept out of their former strongholds, Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River, by hydro dams and the St Lawrence Seaway.

The easiest thing to do to a river is to dam it up for the sake of power, flood

control, or water-taking (as it's called in Ontario). Impoundments are often biological deserts, because of the extreme water level fluctuations they undergo. They'd be less of a problem if more thought was given to managing the level fluctuations to minimize the impact of the fluctuations, and the temperature of the outflow, on the biota. In calcium-rich waters, reservoirs are sources of Zebra Mussels, which effectively wipe out the native biota downstream of the dam.

Oligotrophic conditions: The fundamental finding of the study of nutrient cycling is that mature terrestrial communities allow so little of the major nutrients past their root webs that there is a net removal of fixed nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium from precipitation. Our native aquatic fauna was adapted to the resulting oligotrophic conditions in nutrient-poor waters, so it should be a major goal of river management to so maintain the health of the watershed that minimal nutrients enter ground water and streams. Any water, even pure rainwater, that is not filtered by a well-developed root network of sod or forest, increases plant growth and eutrophication, and should be considered a pollutant.

Almost every sort of environmental degradation results in the leakage of mineral nutrients, because of stress to the root-web, deaths of organisms, the disruption of soil, or the introduction of concentrated nutrients that cannot be used by plants. Careless agriculture, soil erosion, paving of ground, clear-cutting, acidic precipitation, high concentrations (at least) of pesticides, and organic or inorganic water pollution all result in the release of nutrients into outflow water. Conventional methods of treating sewage are designed solely to deal hygienically with human pathogens, and take no notice of the nutrient content of the wastes, except in cases where grossly excessive phosphorus would cause offensive algal blooms.

Of course, all conservation organizations are dealing with aspects of these concerns, but the actions tend to be fragmented, rather than foundational. "Biodiversity" is fragmented into management of exploited stocks, control or monitoring of recognized invasive species, and care for "species at risk." Connectedness is of concern only when an exploited or conspicuously migratory species is obstructed, and nutrient management tends to deal with "point sources" rather than with the whole texture of the landscape.

In 1989 I encountered some first nationers protesting on a road through their traditional territory in British Columbia, with signs calling for "Wholeistic Forestry." I sprang out of my car and asked them "Don't you know that holism is illegal in this country?" and they said "We're beginning to learn that." However, I recently googled the area they were standing up for, and the proposed logging road they were protesting didn't seem to be there. The world is holistic, and solutions don't come from simplifying, fragmenting, or bureaucratizing complex situations, or from failing to explicitly consider the existence of fundamental processes. ♦

Fred Schueler is very active in the application of his PhD in aquatic field biology and ecological exploration and monitoring. He has spent a lifetime studying individual 'indicator' species and trends in biodiversity, as indicators of watershed ecosystem health. He and his wife, Aleta Karstad, are presently undertaking the Thirty Years Later Expedition - <http://fragileinheritance.org/projects/thirty/thirtyintro.htm> - in which revisits to sites they surveyed in the past are documented by Aleta's daily paintings - <http://karstaddailypaintings.blogspot.com/>

Salamanders as an *Indicator* of Biodiversity and Environmental Health

by Frederick Schueler

[on the Thirty Years Later Expedition - <http://fragileinheritance.org/projects/thirty/thirtyintro.htm>]

Ever since sustainable forestry became a mantra in the early 1990's, I've proposed the abundance and diversity of Salamanders as the only necessary measure of the sustainability of forestry, at least in the deciduous woods of northeastern North America. Salamanders are the quintessential forest animals, and management that promoted their abundance and diversity would ensure the integrity of the whole forest.

A fellow scientist once told a meeting of foresters that if we are interested in sustainable forestry, we must test every traditional and proposed disturbance of the forest against the null hypothesis that no disturbance was sustainable, and curtail all proposed disturbances that turned out not to be sustainable, but this didn't seem to appeal to them any more than simply studying Salamanders did.

A few years later I was pleased to be nicely vindicated, in the most-cited ecological journal, by Robert D. Davic and Hartwell H. Welsh, Jr., in their review article "On the ecological roles of Salamanders," (2004. Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics 35:405-434):

"Salamanders are cryptic and, though largely unrecognized as such, extremely abundant vertebrates in a variety of primarily forest and grassland environments, where they regulate food webs and contribute to ecosystem resilience-resistance (= stability) in several ways: (a) As mid-level vertebrate predators, they provide direct and indirect biotic control of species diversity and ecosystem processes along grazer and detritus pathways; (b) via their migrations, they connect energy and matter between aquatic and terrestrial landscapes; (c) through association with underground burrow systems, they contribute to soil dynamics; and (d) they supply high-quality and slowly available stores of energy and nutrients for tertiary consumers throughout ecological succession. Salamanders also can provide an important service to humans through their use as cost-effective and readily quantifiable metrics of ecosystem health and integrity. The diverse ecological roles of salamanders in natural areas underscore the importance of their conservation."

Healthy forests strip nutrients from, and regulate the volume of throughflow, so the abundance and diversity of Salamanders in a watershed may be an important index of progress towards healthy rivers. ♦

Spotted salamander (Ambystoma maculatum), Ontario. Photo: Bev Wigney



The Sandy River – *Life* After the Marmot Dam

by Trish Hogervorst and Zach Jarrett

It has been almost four years since Marmot Dam, 40 miles east of Portland, Oregon, was blasted apart, making the Sandy River once again free flowing. Years of planning by Portland General Electric (PGE) and 22 other organizations (environmental groups, state and federal natural resource agencies, local governments and businesses) who co-authored the decommissioning plan with the utility, led up to the July 2007 event. Once Marmot Dam was removed, it took only one large fall rain event for the large amount of gravel trapped behind the dam to wash downstream.

Portland General Electric transferred nearly 1,500 acres of the project lands to Western Rivers Conservancy, who then conveyed it to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for permanent protection using Land and Water Conservation Funds. This block of land formed the foundation for a planned 15,000 acre conservation and complimentary recreation area.

The Sandy is home to winter steelhead, spring chinook and coho salmon, all listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Marmot Dam's removal opened up 100 miles of streams to fish.

Since Marmot's removal, the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District has developed a Sandy River Basin Integrated Management Plan. The plan, which was signed in 2009, sets the management direction for the next 15 years. "We are in the process of implementing the plan," says Salem BLM Lead Outdoor Recreation Planner Zach Jarrett. "There has been a 200 percent increase in special recreation permit requests from guides and outfitters and people looking to set up organized competitive rafting events."

Many new partnerships have been created:

The Nature Conservancy is doing river restoration work

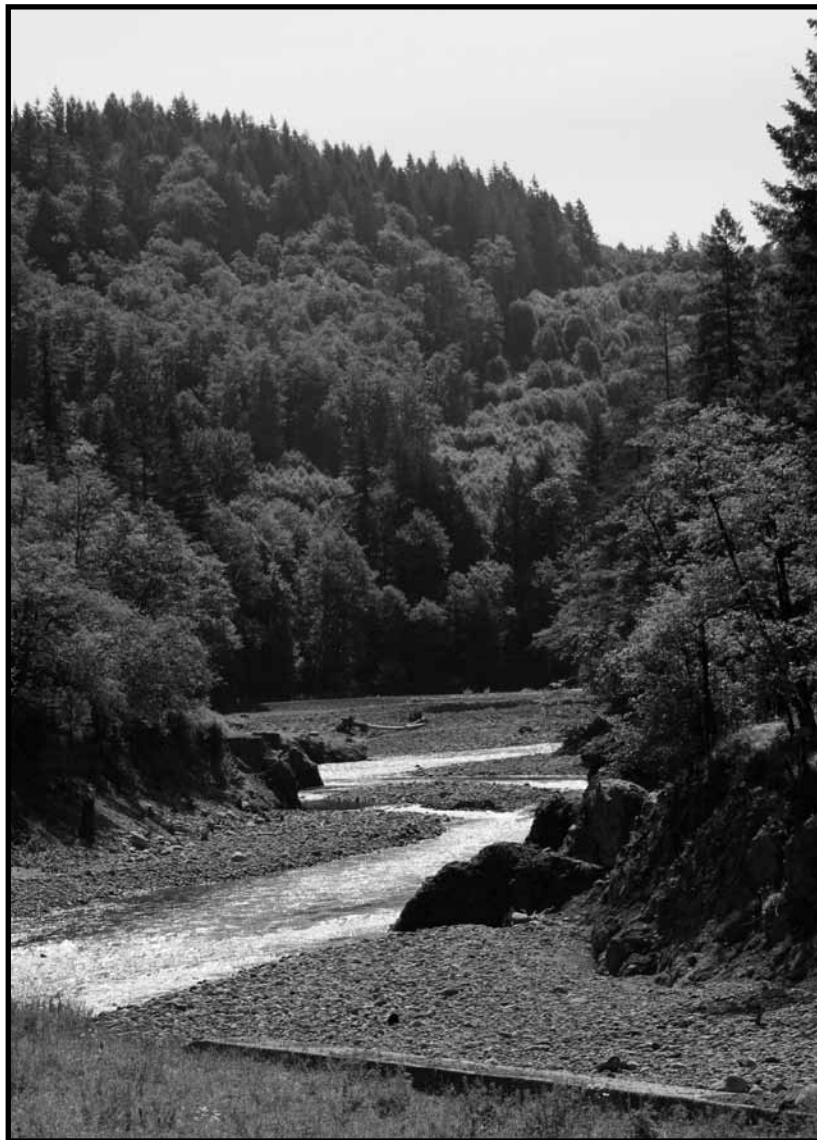
through the eradication of nonnative species; Portland General Electric is developing a revegetative plan for the Marmot Dam site; Clackamas County, the City of Sandy and Salem BLM have signed a Cooperative Agreement for management of their resources in the Sandy Basin; and Salem BLM, the National Park Service, the Mt Hood National Forest and Oregon State Parks have developed a Sandy River Water Trail Guide.

Nearby, the International Mountain Biking Association, local bicycle shops and the Northwest Trails Alliance have partnered with Salem BLM to provide non-motorized trail systems throughout the Sandy Basin. Federal Highways recently granted Salem BLM a \$75,000 Scenic Byways grant for interpretive and trailhead signage to support upland and river based recreation in the Sandy Basin. The money given to BLM is part of a larger \$500,000 grant to develop continuity in the design and style under a Cascadian theme of entrance signs, kiosks and visitor

information among land management agencies along the Portland to Mt Hood Corridor.

The Sandy River Basin limelight has expanded south to the Molalla River Corridor as well. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to designate a BLM owned segment of the Molalla River as a Wild and Scenic River based on its outstandingly remarkable values. Salem BLM is preparing to release the Molalla River Recreation Management Plan. The Plan is focused on protecting the outstandingly remarkable values on the river, addressing the unregulated recreation use and developing designated overnight sites. It will set guidance for the next 15 years. If the Wild and Scenic River Designation passes in Congress, the Molalla Management Plan will tier to the Wild and Scenic Plan. ♦

Former dam site on Sandy River, Oregon. Photo: Trish Hogervorst



First Day on the *Job*— Owyhee River

by Molly Wainwright

Getting a new job is always exciting. You meet new people, learn new things, and you get to explore new places. I started a job for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in January as an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Vale District. Some of you may be thinking, “Cool, Vale. I hear they have great skiing there”. However, this Vale (not to be confused with Vail, Colorado) is located in Eastern Oregon near the Idaho border. Vale is a small community, around 1,000 residents, and is in no way like Vail, CO.

There are two Outdoor Recreation Planners in Vale. I am the one who gets to play nice with the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) whitewater and angling outfitters. With the job comes the great opportunity of floating the beautiful Owyhee River and visiting the put-in and take-out sites. A few weeks ago I floated the river for the first time. I had heard it described as Oregon’s Grand Canyon and was excited to see the beauty everyone spoke about so highly. We put-in at Rome Launch Site on a beautiful bluebird day. I had forgotten my sunscreen and by the time we made camp my nose was as red as Rudolph’s.

The next day we woke to cloudy skies and what looked like rain in the distance. It started to rain about an hour into our float. We decided to push forth and eat lunch at a site called Owl Cave where we could get out of the rain and warm up. After lunch we made our way down river through the rapids and to camp. We tucked into a little alcove to get away from the wind that sent chills to the bone. There was a Peregrine Falcon nest nearby in the cliff walls and we could hear screeches echoing throughout the canyon. The next morning I woke up to my co-worker saying, “You awake? I would put every piece of clothing you have on, it’s pretty cold out here.” So I did as I was told and layered myself up with two pairs of fleece pants, all my long underwear, some fleece tops, my down coat and a hat. I unzipped my tent and looked to the tops of the canyon walls and saw a white dusting of snow. We warmed some water, ate breakfast and packed up for our float out to Birch Creek.

On our float out I thought to myself, what a beautiful river. I have never been on the Grand Canyon, but if it is anything

like the Owyhee River, count me in. I had experienced everything weather wise— sun, rain, snow and, of course, wind. I look back on that float and think to myself, “Wow, what a great job I have.” You might get rained on in the job, but the experience is something to remember. ♦

Molly Wainwright chilling on the Owyhee River, OR



Learn to Paddle in the Outer Coastal Plain — *Great Egg Harbor*



The next RMS Northeast Chapter field trip will be an exploration of how to paddle in the outer coastal plain of the Great Egg Harbor River on Saturday October 15 and Sunday October 16. The Great Egg Harbor River is often touted as the longest canoeable river in New Jersey, and its wide flood plains and winding morphology present both hidden beauty and unique challenges for paddlers new to outer coastal plain rivers. Plus, 129 miles, including 17 tributaries, were federally designated as Scenic and Recreational Rivers in 1992.

The Great Egg Harbor River Council will be sponsoring the event. For more information, contact:

Fred Akers

Office Phone: 856-697-6114

Cell Phone: 609-335-3744

Email: fred_akers@gehwa.org ♦

DC Area National Parks Reach Out to Paddlers to Improve Visitor Safety



Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park, describes the 2011 River Safety Task Force Initiatives, flanked by officers from the US Park Police, Montgomery (MD) and Fairfax (VA) Counties' Fire and Rescue Operations. Photos: ©2011 Barbara Brown. All rights reserved.

by Risa Shimoda

Residents of the National Capital Region are extremely fortunate to have the Potomac River in their back yard. This true treasure among rivers defines the interface between Maryland and the District of Columbia to the east, and Virginia to the west with a particularly dramatic reach that begins at Great Falls and runs down to the heart of the nation's capital. The overlooks and visitor centers managed by staff at Great Falls Park (part of George Washington Memorial Parkway) and C&O Canal National Historical Park offer spectacular views of the falls and trails for running, biking, and hiking and access to the river for fishing and boating. The facilities are well used by their one million visitors each year.

Accompanying the benefits of offering public access to the river and trails along this fourteen mile reach, there is the formidable challenge of minimizing hazards by educating users about the

resources they are using and warning them about the associated risks.

The National Park Service and local river rescue organizations have developed a River Safety Task Force by which they can depend on a solid network of communication, response and expertise for visitors and frequent users. However, their efforts have not been sufficient to prevent serious accidents: sixteen fatalities occurred during an eighteen month period in 2009-2010 in the Great Falls / Mather Gorge section of the Potomac. While accidents and fatalities are not new to the staff and safety professionals, this number is unacceptably high. The fatalities have been members of the Vietnamese and Latino population, at locations that are difficult, if not impossible to patrol from shore.

In 2010, this particularly high recent accident rate catalyzed the formation of the Potomac River Safety Volunteer Kayak

Corps, a group of skilled whitewater paddlers who have begun to act as "eyes and ears" for the National Park staff on the water. In exchange for the opportunity to be certified in First Aid, CPR and swift water rescue, the volunteers advise citizens of the potential dangers of being around water, and that it is illegal to swim in the river. Wearing bright volunteer bibs and helmet covers, both staff and volunteers believe their presence and approved advisories will reduce dangerous behavior and opportunities for accident and injury. This outreach is particularly meaningful to paddlers who have been unofficially hauling hypothermic or otherwise injured and panicked swimmers out of the Potomac for decades. In the past, they have been specifically asked 'not to touch' or assist with rescues in any way by rescue and park personnel to avoid any liability associated with their 'assistance.'

(continued on next page)

On May 4, 2011, officials from the following agencies gathered at the banks of the Potomac River for a press conference to announce this program, as well as a partnership with a group that has offered to reach out to the Latino community with relevant messaging:

- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- C&O Canal National Historical Park
- US Park Police
- Washington, DC Harbor Patrol
- Fairfax County (VA) Fire and Rescue
- Montgomery County (MD) Rescue
- Maryland Dept of Natural Resources

In just the first two weeks of implementation, reports from volunteers indicate positive effects of their presence and efforts. (Note excerpts from post-patrol emails sent to Brent O'Neill, Site Manager at Great Falls Park (VA), Alyssa Baltrus, Supervisory Park Ranger, and Rebecca Sherman, Volunteer Coordinator, at C&O Canal National Historical Park (MD/DC).

This precedent-setting partnership between the National Park Service and paddlers has already created a level of positive communication, cooperation and camaraderie that has been missing for several years. Time will tell if the presence and admonishment of paddlers impacts the unsightly statistics on the river.

Thanks go to Brent O'Neill, Aly Baltrus and Becca Sherman for their fine work and leadership, as well as the paddlers who are stepping up with their time and commitment. ♦

Patrol Reports

"I did an official patrol yesterday. I spoke to 3 groups of swimmers on the MD side and called in to dispatch regarding a group of Hispanics on the VA side below Cow Hoof drinking beer, fishing and swimming. I also spoke to a Hispanic woman who was wading with her toddler on the VA side right next to really fast current below O Deck! It seems like if I talk to people after I do a really cool trick first they really listen and don't give me any crap.

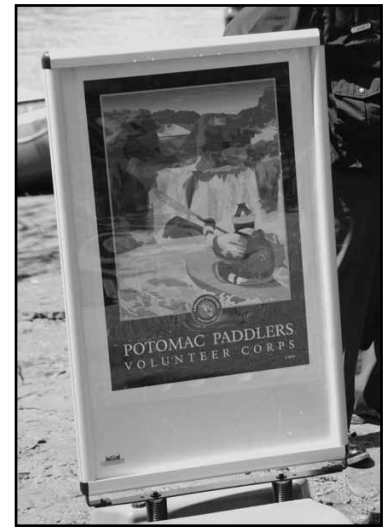
On April 28, I was paddling just below Brookmont Dam on the MD side and noticed 3 teens swimming and jumping off a tree just above the Feeder Canal. This is a common area to find people swimming. One of the kids for some reason swam out towards the middle of the river so I paddled closer anticipating trouble. Sure enough, he started to be swept towards the rubble dam and Little Falls and started panicking and yelling for help. I got him to grab my stern and barely got him away from the water falling over the dam and towed him in." —Jason

"I was on the river between Rocky Island and Anglers Inn yesterday, May 12th, from 3:30 to 5:30pm. The only item of interest was encountering a young couple swimming across the river at the jumping cliffs. I watched until they got to shore on the MD side, then reminded them of the hazards of being in the water without a life jacket, and that it was illegal. They got out and I went on my way." —Gil

"Kia and I mostly stayed around Rocky Island until about 3pm when 2 guys that had a swim from a tandem canoe came in sight. Kia was in a perfect spot to rescue one guy who later told me that he was in a panic and had started to hyper-ventilate. She had a hard time convincing him to let her take him to shore as he wanted to rescue his boat. When I saw that she had him under control I went and got the canoe which was well outfitted with proper flotation. I later called dispatch from below Rocky Island to:

- a) Let them know there had been a rescue and that all was OK.*
- b) To see what the reception was like down there.*
- c) To see what their reaction would be.*

The cell reception was better there than anywhere else in the park and dispatch handled everything just fine. I finished up around 4pm." —Ken



Poster produced by the National Park Service to represent the River Safety Volunteer Corps effort.

(L to R) Potomac River Safety Volunteers: Jason Walker, Risa Shimoda, Jason Beakes, Peter Bross



Accessing a *Virtual* Community With Help of RMS

by Walter Opuszynski

In an age of high speed internet and increased understanding of our carbon footprint, we are finding community and the sharing of ideas occurring in brand new venues. This shone clear on April 5th when the River Management Society hosted its inaugural webinar entitled

“Paddlers and River Managers: Working Together to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasives.”

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is currently involved in a project that needs input and consensus from several main communities: paddlers, river managers,

and aquatic invasives experts. With a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the support of our membership we are working to develop paddler specific aquatic invasive spread prevention signage. It is our hopes that this message will be universal and available to all river managers for use.

To be certain that we are not reinventing the wheel, it was very important that we compiled information that has already been developed. To do this we sent a message to Risa Shimoda, RMS Executive Director, to be passed along to her distribution list. The response was great. Being a hot topic, Risa asked if we could use it for the first RMS sponsored webinar. We jumped at the opportunity. This event would not only allow us to speak to a sampling of our target audiences across the nation, it would also allow us to build the diverse community needed to develop an accurate, effective, and feasible message.

To create an informative presentation with current information, we called on the experience of Michele L. Tremblay (President, New Hampshire Rivers Council and owner of Naturesource Communications), Joe Starinchak (Fish and Wildlife Service), and Ben Lawhon (Leave No Trace). The webinar allowed us all to craft a presentation that took participants from a general intro of aquatic invasives, to the challenges faced by river managers, to effective methods used for crafting and disseminating stewardship messages to the public. With the added ability to survey webinar participants we were able to determine the effectiveness of the presentation and allow participants to continue the discussion by offering to be on a work group. This webinar was a very effective way to kick off the project. Thanks goes out to RMS and all who participated. ♦ [see next page for more]

**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
INVASIVE SPECIES
IT'S THE LAW**

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before *launching* and before *leaving* YOU MUST:

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*

 **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**
Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law

 *Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."

RMS Webinar Feedback

“Paddlers and River Managers: Working Together to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasives” had 56 people sign up with 35 attending. The average time a participant spent in the 118-minute webinar was 83 minutes. A recording can be found at: <http://www.divshare.com/download/14498248-7bc>. At the end, participants were asked to complete a questionnaire. Of the 35 participants, 17 responded.

Would you attend another RMS webinar based on your experience today? Yes = 14, No = 0, Maybe = 3

Proposed Topics for a Future Webinar:

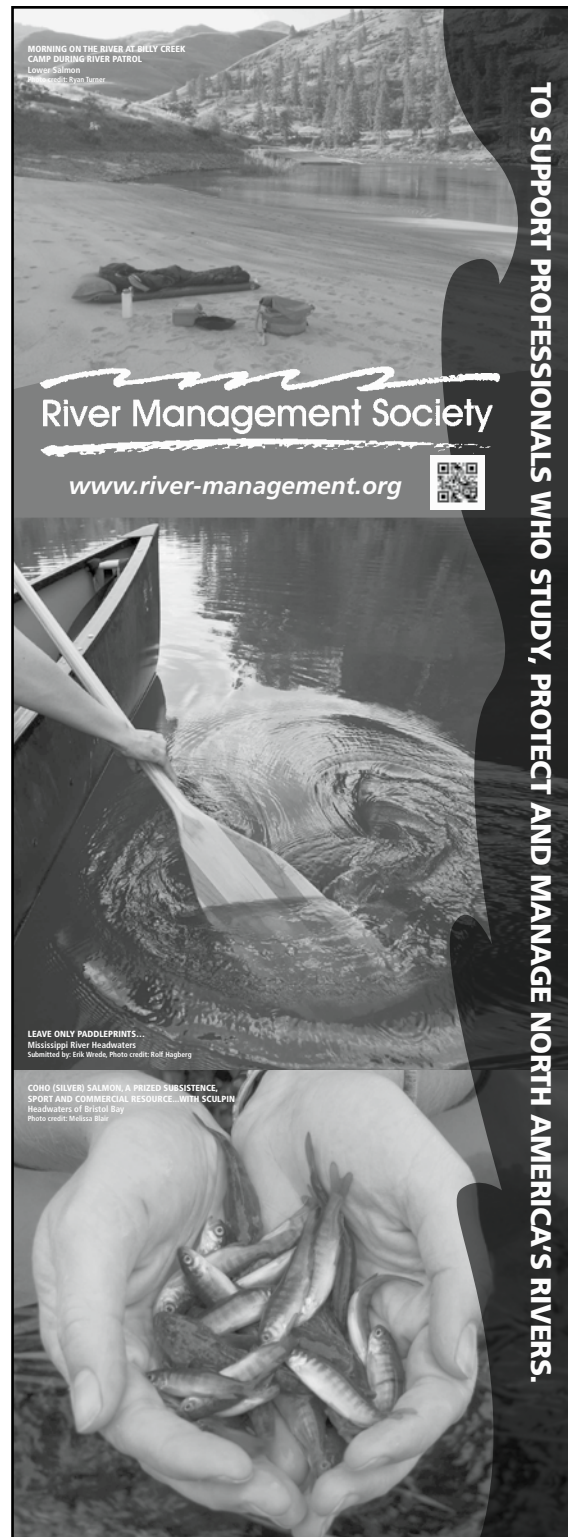
- Wild and Scenic issues
- Getting volunteers involved in river conservation
- Effective public education regarding aquatic invasives
- What other states are doing to outreach and educate the public
- Hydropower impacts and FERC relicensing
- Collaborating with NGO's and other agencies to stretch the aquatic education dollars
- Establishing river trail systems through multiple agency and land ownerships
- Instream flow and fluvial erosion hazards in Northeast
- Assaying nutrient levels in rivers as a reflection of the health of their watersheds
- Aquatic invasive species management/eradication
- Riparian area restoration
- Improving fish habitat from urban/developed areas

Would you participate in a NFCT discussion regarding paddler specific signage? Yes = 6, Not at this time = 4, Maybe = 7

Would you participate in an invasive species workgroup coordinated by RMS-NE or another RMS chapter? Yes = 5, Not at this time = 2, Maybe = 10

What are your top river management issues?

- Community managed rivers
- Interaction with riparian owners
- Maintaining the Wild and Scenic appearance of a river which is very busy with people, non-motorized boats and fishers. Recently, Chinese Silvergrass has shown up on our radar as a NNIS.
- How to outreach to a group that does not believe they are causing any harm
- Education
- Access. Carrying capacity and tracking pvt use. Keeping out NZMS and other IS, aquatic and terrestrial.
- Disorderly conduct. Leave No Trace.
- Instream Flow Stormwater Fluvial Erosion assessments
- Spread and hybridization of alien *Orconectes* crayfishes, calcium levels in relation to Zebra Mussel occupancy, and adaptation of persisting Unionids to coexistence with ZM
- Aquatic invasive species (plants at this time) management/eradication. Riparian area restoration. Improved fish habitat.



RMS National Banner Display – This 3' x 7' display features photos submitted by Ryan Turner (NW), Eric Wrede (MW) and Melissa Blair (AK). Ryan and Eric won a one-year Professional Level membership renewal for their photo submissions. Thanks go to the many members who submitted nearly 100 images to the 2011 RMS Display Photo Contest illustrating the study, management and protection of our nation's rivers, including those in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Banner displays featuring members' photos have been produced for chapters to use at regional events, thanks to support from the National Park Service.

Black River Reverie

by Lemie Lentz

I grew up in Sumter County, South Carolina, only a few miles from the beginning of the Black River. I had heard it's name and knew that it flowed into the Pee Dee River near Georgetown. In my 4th grade South Carolina History book there were engraved pictures of it, showing Indians in dugout canoes on it. I saw maps of it, joining other rivers like slender fingers coming together to make a hand, where the wrist was Winyah Bay. So to say that I didn't know about the Black River is not altogether true in one sense. More honest, it is to say I didn't know it.

As an adult I moved to North Carolina where I found the French Broad River-- a wide, strong, comfort to me as it wound deliberately through various neighborhoods in the greater Asheville

area. It gave me a sense of direction because I knew its route through the folds of the mountains, and its secret-- that it flows northerly, its water finally emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

It gave me a job working for Nantahala Outdoor Center in the 80's when I needed to re-invent myself. It gave me solace when I sat beside it to write love letters and poetry. It gave me excitement when the river guides taught me to paddle a kayak. And once it nearly killed me when I swam in Frank Bell's Rapids.

Last weekend South Carolina's Black River took me way back-- much further than childhood memories and deeper than excitement and solace. Dipping my canoe paddle quietly in and out of its primordial

mix was a waking dream. The liquid black reflected perfectly all visions, feelings, sounds and time. And I was caught between the tall cypress trees on the banks and their fluid twins shifting on the gentle current. My eyes followed the flight of one Great Blue Heron in opposite directions as we took him by surprise. And my nose inhaled both exquisite scents of flowers and the rawness of decay, all the same. I felt open, alive and living a part of history.

I was, at once, aware and unaware of my partner, softly guiding us both through water and time, a rudder for my drifting. For stretches we never spoke. Small ripples and distant trains became a background melody that day, marked only by bird calls random in time. This is the Black River, and now it is mine. ♦

Black River. Photo: Steve Hendricks



Wave Trek Rescue

by David Brock

During my 20 years in Norway, repetitive immersion into frigid waters was a common ordeal, most often followed by a sauna, and, on occasion, a wee dram of the local spirit.

As I stood on the banks of the Skykomish River, with four fellow students, and course instructor Ryan Murphy, I knew that neither the sauna, nor the dram would be waiting after that day's training expired. My fellow classmates included three local firemen and Paul Gamache who was leaving for southern Africa in a month to head up a float operation for the following year. While we were thinking frostbite, Paul must have had 16' croc's on his mind.

Wave Trek Rescue is owned by Chris Jonason. Previously she had owned Wave Trek Inc., a company specializing in white water and other adventure excursions, both locally and in other parts of the world. She recently made the decision to specialize in rescue training. Her course curriculum includes swift water, high to low angle, technical rope rescue, and animal rescue techniques, to name a few. She is the main instructor, and with over 30 years experience in the field, it did not take long to realize she knew her business. She represents and instructs from the Rescue 3 International format, and her courses are all constructed to meet the requirements and objectives set forth by NFPA 1670 and 1006. She remains very active in the development of Rescue 3's direction.

The first two days of the 3-day course involved covering the basics, size up, management protocols, safety, hydrology and equipment. Extensive time was spent on knots and rigging techniques, practicing setting up various tensioning systems that would be used for extraction of personnel and water craft. Between Chris's knowledge and the rigging experience of one of the firemen, we were quickly understanding and applying the different types of mechanical advantage available with a few ropes, biners and pulleys.



On the second day, Chris brought in one of her chief instructors, Ryan Murphy, from Spokane, WA. Vastly resourceful, he provided instruction based on practical application. Ryan also

drew the lucky straw to be with us in the water the following day.

For the most part, Wave Trek Rescue offers their courses in and near Index, Washington, where their base camp sits. Located just east of Stevens Pass, the area offers great white water and challenging climbing opportunities right out the back door. Chris will also organize private courses and is willing to travel to other locals in order to meet the demands of her growing customer base.

For additional information:

Wave Trek Rescue
50301 Index-Galena Rd
Index, Washington 98256
360-793-1508

I also suggest checking out her website at: www.wavetrekrescue.com. The site offers updated information on available courses, equipment, and the other services offered by her company.

Chris and Ryan reiterated time and again that the course was similar to boot camp. "We will teach you the basic skills and knowledge, but proficiency is gained through practice and training." When working in a swift water environment, things happen very quickly when water flows at 20,000cfs or more. Being able to help yourself and your mates should be a main priority, and a skill that you will use if you spend enough time on the water. I left the course feeling better about myself, but also aware that a little knowledge and confidence is not enough. To ensure the safety of yourself and your boat partners, your company or agency should annually consider follow up or in-house training in order to maintain this competency. ♦

David Brock works for the Bureau of Land Management as a River Ranger in Central Oregon.

Welcome New Members

Organizational

Chris Stein
National Park Service
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, WI

Steve Couture
Rivers Management and
Protection Program, NH

Associate

Todd Hoffman, ID
Leah Maulucci, CA
Alex Van Vechten, CA
Gary Thorson, CO

Student

Molly Sutton, UT
Amy Ando, ID

Dear RMS Members:

Please inform the RMS Main Office when your contact information changes.

If you change jobs or retire, we won't know you have moved on until you give us a yell, since undeliverable journals are not returned.

You can change your mailing address any time by visiting our website (www.river-management.org), logging into the Members Only section (your email address logs you in, and your member number is your default password), and clicking "To view or change your account information."

You may also contact Risa Shimoda at (301) 585-4677 or rms@river-management.org.

Thanks for helping RMS keep up with your busy, ever-changing lives!



“You have to do what you can, do your best with what you are. And you have to believe in wilderness. If you do that you can’t go wrong.”

KIRK ALBERT WALTER WIPPER

B GRAHAMDALE, MANITOBA
DECEMBER 6, 1923

D PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO
MARCH 18, 2011

Founder of Canadian Canoe Museum — *A Tribute*

by Nora Ryell

*[Reprinted from a Special to Globe and Mail
Published Sunday, May 8, 2011]*

Kirk Wipper spent a lifetime contributing to environmental education. An early proponent of wilderness exploration, he literally paddled his way into the hearts and minds of a generation of canoeing and camping enthusiasts. Over a period of 45 years, his love for Canada was embodied in his collection of more than 500 canoes, most of which are now housed in the Canadian Canoe Museum.

For Wipper, the canoe was not only a means of travel across the Canadian wilderness. He felt it symbolized our heritage and the connection between the founding cultures of Canada. As Wipper reflected in a 1995 CBC Ideas program, “The canoe carried aboriginal people for thousands of years, followed then by the explorers and the missionaries and the engineers and the surveyors ... until in modern times it gives us the gift of freedom. The canoe is a vehicle that carries you into pretty exciting places.”

Wipper, who died on March 18 at the age of 88, was a disarmingly humble man who nonetheless possessed real determination when it came to his beliefs, as comfortable in the limelight as he was on a solitary canoe ride. A true visionary, Wipper believed that what lay beyond the next bend in the river was the chance to become part of something greater than himself.

Kirk Albert Walter Wipper was born in the remote town of Grahamdale in Northern Manitoba on Dec. 6, 1923. The Wipper family were of German stock and had come to farm in the early 1900s. They soon discovered that the land was harsh and unforgiving, but the family stayed on. Kurt Wipper eventually married a local girl named Marjory Verch. The couple had two children, Kirk and a sister Marianne.

Grahamdale was situated near a native reserve and when Kirk was growing up, many of his friends were native children. From them he gained a profound reverence and appreciation for the bounties of the wilderness, which often made the difference between hunger and a full stomach. School, held in a one-room

log cabin, was where he had his first experience of poetry. He could recite most of the poems he learned there for the rest of his life. His high school diploma was completed by correspondence and he then travelled to Winnipeg, where he attended normal school to train to be a teacher. He returned to Grahamdale to teach when he was just 15 years old.

When Wipper was 17, he joined the Canadian Navy and for the duration of the war he found himself on very different waters as a young seaman aboard HMCS Runnymede. After the war, he enrolled at the University of Manitoba to study geology, but when he received a scholarship to study sociology at the University of Toronto, he moved east. He was only one year into the sociology program when W.G. Griffiths, a professor at the School of Physical Education and Health, persuaded him to transfer.

By this time, Wipper had developed an impressive physique and was a natural athlete, who competed on several varsity teams. He was captain of the wrestling team and for five years the undefeated champion. He also coached the wrestling team. When his students were not winning, but obviously possessed the talent to do so, he admonished them that they did not believe they were winners. “You have to believe,” he said. When they believed in themselves, they started to be champions.

During the summer, he earned money as an outdoor educator at various camps. In 1948, he met a young nurse at Camp Pinecrest named Margaret Nidderly, and the two were married a few years later. The couple had three children, Douglas, David and Joanna. In 1950, after completing degrees in both physical education and social work, Wipper joined the School of Physical and Health Education at the University of Toronto as a professor. He quickly became a major innovator within the department. One of his students was Robin Campbell, who describes Wipper’s influence: “Kirk was recognized as a pioneer in the development of outdoor education in Canada. In the 1970s, Kirk developed the syllabus for outdoor education courses, a program that is still required today as part of the BPHE undergraduate curriculum at U of T.”

(continued on page 30)

RMS Chapters

Northwest by Charlie Sperry

This issue of the RMS Journal features articles from the Northwest Chapter. I want to personally thank all those who assisted with this issue and compliment them on their work. Our NW Chapter members are responsible for managing, studying and protecting some of North America's most iconic rivers. I continue to be amazed by the diversity of the resources we manage and the complexity of the issues we face on a daily basis. I argue that in large part it is the rivers themselves that inspire us to rise to the challenge and perform magnificently.

Speaking of iconic rivers in the Northwest, Nancy Schwieger of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has generously offered to organize a Rogue River chapter event this fall. The Rogue River has grown into somewhat of a NW Chapter Classic over the years and interest in this lodge-to-lodge river trip is usually very high (what a concept – float down a river and then sleep in a dry lodge at night, what's not to like!). Like all chapter events, the Rogue River trip will feature pointed discussions on river management issues that are relevant to the Rogue River and applicable to rivers elsewhere.

On another of our iconic rivers the news is more somber and a reminder of the powerful forces at play when floating rivers during spring runoff. As I write this update, search and rescue crews are at work on the Smith River looking for a boater who was swept downstream after their boat capsized. While I have not spoken with Colin Maas, the Smith River State Park manager, I can imagine that this is a most difficult time for him and it is beyond my words to describe how this must be affecting the missing boater's family. Please be safe out there folks.

With snowpack well above average on all of our river basins in Montana we should see good flows extending well into the summer. Of course "good flows" is in the eye of the beholder; if you are an angler anticipating the annual salmon fly hatch in June you might take a more jaundiced view on the roiling muddy water that is likely to be present for some time to come. My own boat sits parked as the green grass grows taller around its trailer; my fishing gear is still closeted after a few exploratory outings over the winter. Patience is a virtue for anglers experiencing spring runoff in the West.

In other news, the NW Chapter is looking for enthusiastic members who are interested in serving as chapter officers. Elections will be conducted later this summer for all four officer positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. I will soon be sending out more information via the listserve, including the nomination process and election schedule. In the meantime, please give some thought to helping the chapter, and yourself – serving as an RMS chapter officer is very rewarding personally and professionally. ♦



Black Bar Lodge, Rogue River, Oregon



Rogue River. Photo: Jim MacCartney, 2005 RMS trip

Fall Lodge and Float Trip on the Rogue River — A Northwest Chapter *Classic*

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service is hosting a fall RMS Chapter event on the Rogue River in Oregon. A three to 4-day trip is scheduled to take place in late October or early November. An optional day could be arranged on the upper Rogue River above Rand. This Rogue River opportunity typically occurs every other year and its lodge-to-lodge format makes it a popular NW Chapter Classic. More details including logistics and sign-up information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you have any immediate questions, please call Nancy Schwieger at 541-247-3640. ♦

RMS Chapters

Midwest by Randy Thoreson

The Jack's Fork River— a gleaming ribbon in the heart of the Ozarks

It was a long winter and a late spring in the Upper Midwest. Record snowfalls and record flooding. All-in-all not the best for RMS river rats. However, being hearty souls and not letting any “natural” conditions spoil times on a river, a healthy and energetic group of eight canoeists and kayakers planned and carried out a very worthwhile trip (mid April) on the Jack's Fork River nestled in the National Park Service Ozark National Scenic Riverways (southeastern Missouri). The float included people from the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Army Core of Engineers, as well as an engaged citizen RMS member that has participated in other RMS / Midwest Chapter outings. We even had a local historian and his wife who entertained us around the campfire with many stories and historical perspectives of the area. The overall goal of the trip was to meet and mingle with other river professionals and enthusiasts; to learn about local river management issues; to paddle a beautiful and nationally known river and, of course, to make new friends and create lasting memories. I am sure all will agree that “The mission was accomplished!”

Flowing out of the Missouri Ozarks, the Jack's Forks River (or “Jack” as many of the locals call it) flows 45.4 miles from its headwaters (South Prong Access) to its confluence with the Current River (an equally spectacular and nationally known river) at Ferry Landing near Eminence, Missouri. As a tributary to the Current, the Jack is one of the most scenic of all Missouri Ozark streams. Clear water roaring down the valley is surrounded by steep walls and massive cliffs. A few scenic openings along the route provide a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside. One of the most fascinating features along the Jack is the many caves and natural springs that dot cliffs and the riverway. A nationally known site along the Jack is Alley Spring which has an average flow of 84 million gallons of water per day (roughly 130 cubic feet per second!). For floating purposes, the Jack is

a Class I–II river with an average gradient of 7 feet per mile. One local website boasts that “According to Life Magazine, the Jack's Fork River is one of the world's most scenic floating/fishing streams” (gee I wish I had brought my fishing gear). We floated from Buck Hollow to Bay Creek Camp (day 1), and then 30+ miles from Bay Creek Camp to Ferry Landing (day 2). Previous day's rainfall and an early morning closure of the Jack's Fork headwaters (the Prongs) prevented us from floating the entire Jack's Fork stretch. However, there were not many long faces since we experienced unbelievable scenery and had opportunities to stop and explore.

Camping at Bay Creek was made even more pleasurable with informative talks by Rick Drummond, NPS District Ranger and Dennis Wieland, NPS Chief Ranger. Both of these people talked about the precious and unique Jack's Fork River and challenges to a variety of Park management issues.

The Jack's Fork is a very popular river to say the least. Although we experienced an early spring quiet float, during the summer and early fall months a total of 1.3 million visitors a year experience the Jack's Fork and Current rivers. Quite an impressive number. An unbelievable number of canoe/kayak outfitters are located in the Eminence, MO, vicinity. According to the outfitter we used, it is not unusual to have a great many people on the Jack's Fork during a typical summer day with canoes, kayaks and tubes. However, all are not floaters. The area has numerous horse trails that are well known around the country (one source says that there are 250 miles of horse trails and 80 places where horses cross the rivers in the National Park. It goes on to say that one commercial operator alone offers over 3,000 stalls for horses on private land along the lower Jack's Fork). Although I did not research for this writing, such a staggering number



L to R: Randy Thoreson NPS, Brandon Schmoele USACOE, Liisa Niva USFWS, Roy Stovall, Trisha Crabill USFWS, Arlo Hark, Peter Hark MNDNR, Stuart Schnieder NPS. Buck Hollow launch—windy, cloudy, low 40's.



Brandon Schmoele (ACOE) and Liisa Nova (USFWS) enjoy spring leaf-out on the Jack's Fork. All photos courtesy of: Stuart Schnieder



Chief Ranger Dennis Weiland (right) shares management issues with the group at the Bay Creek campsite.



Alley Spring gushes forth 84 million gallons a day of cold, clear water — the 7th largest spring in the state.



Blue Spring — one of several large springs along the Jack's Fork river.

of canoes, kayaks, and tubes on the water during a hot, summer day must be phenomenal.

Mainly through stated high use and the management strain, American Rivers has placed Ozark Riverways as among the Nation's 10 Most Endangered Rivers. The American Rivers website goes on to say that such usage numbers and management is harming the health of the rivers (Jacks Fork and Current) and the unique, remote experiences they offer. For brevity, this article does not delve into such issues. The reader is encouraged to look up the American Rivers website and endangered rivers discussion.

So, the RMS Midwest Chapter spring float on the Jack's Fork River was indeed a great time. The Jack was beautiful and the Class 1 and Class II rapids provided a pleasurable experience for a great group of people. Besides super camp cooking by Stuart Schnieder (Chief Ranger, Niobrara National Scenic River), RMS Chapter President Peter Hark brought along his son, Arlo, who provided added entertainment around the campfire. ♦



Informal meeting and snack break on gravel bar, plus scouting a rapid on Day One (Jack's Fork River, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri)

RMS Chapters

Southeast by Mary Crockett



Accomplishing new tasks in river management can be as simple as learning how to use a new lifejacket or camera, or as hard as mastering paddling or ArcGIS. In my career as a land and river manager I have always used a Trimble GIS device as a tool to help make nice maps using an Arc software program. I started my career making hand drawn maps and presentations on printed aerial photos, then onto ArcView 3.1, then to ArcGIS/Pad 6.1, and for the last few years with ArcGIS 9. Today I received our new Juno unit with ArcGIS/Pad etc. 10. Yes, the entire suite of Arc software programs...river manager with candy store overload! As a river manager, I am so excited about the process of relearning and navigating the new hardware Juno unit and software program, which for me might have an extended and large learning curve.

In April 2011, we held a SE Chapter meeting for our members in Asheville to begin working on organizing the 2012 Symposium. We are so excited about the process, meetings, large learning curve, learning new planning skills, opportunity to network, and learn from all of you in Asheville, North Carolina.

We need your help. The type of help we need are folks interested in serving on a committee to find sponsors, speakers, organize field trips, arrange transportation, and many other details. We have less than one year to organize this event, so I am inviting those that are interested in volunteering on the Symposium Committee to give myself or Steve Hendricks a call or email (you can retrieve our contact information on the membership website or on the inside back cover of this publication). Once you contact us we will send you a conference call number for our monthly meetings at 1 PM Eastern Time on the last Thursday of each month. Mark your calendars for April 24-26, 2012 and come experience Asheville, North Carolina, and the 11th Biennial RMS Symposium—

“from intimate creeks to the infinite sea” ♦

A Westerner’s View of Appalachia:

Regional reasons to attend the
2012 RMS Symposium in Asheville, NC

by Sera Janson Zegre

I’m a desert rat, a transplanted westerner who now calls Appalachia my home. Each day I deepen my sense of place, and fall in love with the rivers, land, culture, and people of this region. Next spring, RMS members will have the opportunity to experience the heart of southern Appalachia: Asheville, North Carolina, the host city for the 2012 RMS Symposium. Consider your plans, as I offer a taste of the draw of our southeast region.

Spring has arrived here in Appalachia. Our intimate creeks are swollen from abundant rain, and lined with dogwoods and rhododendrons, budding with blossoms; the warm air has coaxed the hemlocks to sharpen their green hue. One of the most biodiverse areas of the country, Appalachia is home to over 140 different tree species. These intimate places in the populated east are like no other in the world.

The region’s creeks and rivers—and the valleys and hollows they drain—feed beauty and adventure, as well as forage that sustains mountain culture and people. In April, we forage ramps that grow all over the Appalachian hills; these wild leeks are a pungent harbinger of spring. The region’s wild morel mushrooms fetch profits for mountain people and pleasure for gourmet palate. Come fall, longtime residents spend time ‘sanguin’, collecting ginseng root from the hollows.

Culture and history are rooted deeply in the hills and waters of this place; Appalachian music is a prominent expression of the region’s rich culture. Not only is bluegrass ubiquitous, but so is the music from which it’s founded—the old-time and gospel of the Appalachian hollows.

The city of Asheville, North Carolina, is a bustling heart of southern Appalachia. Although famous for its history and culture, it is also known for its natural beauty, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad rivers. The city has preserved its historical legacies, and also nurtured modern culture, arts, and food. I hear that in recent years, Asheville claims to offer more microbreweries per capita than Portland, Oregon. And music can still be found on every corner, whether it’s the longstanding drum circle at Pritchard Park or local jam sessions at Jack of the Wood, the original home of Green Man Brewing. History goes beyond urban boundaries; beyond the city in Great Smokey Mountain National Park, the legendary Nantahala Outdoors Center (NOC) has been offering whitewater tours and instruction since 1972. From a river management perspective, Asheville has been the hotbed of many landmark river management projects such as the Chattooga headwaters and the Dillsboro Dam removal. Can a better place be chosen for the 2012 RMS Symposium than what some call one of the most welcoming, vibrant cities of America? ♦

Stay tuned! Curious for more? Search The New York Times online for “36 hours in Asheville, NC” (October 2010).

RiverLink and RMS on the *Nolichucky* River

by Lemie Lentz

Heavy skies, threatening rain and blustery winds did nothing to dampen the spirits of the RMS/RiverLink committee who met in Asheville, North Carolina, on April 26-27 to continue planning for an exciting 2012 River Symposium. After several hours of boardroom meetings and conference calls, the group set out on foot to explore and sample the city's eclectic mix of micro-breweries, restaurants, chocolatiers, art galleries and unique shops. Graciously hosted and led by Asheville's Steve Hendricks, of both RiverLink and RMS, we were marched up, down and around the streets of Asheville at a river-runner's pace, determined not to miss anything: street sculpture, historical markers, rooftop bars, delightful architecture, and an extremely diverse selection of human characters, including ourselves! Steve's sometimes meandering line of explorers included Mary Crockett, Lee Larson, Gary Marsh, Bill Marshall and Lemie Lentz.

With darkness at our heels, the six of us piled snugly into one boat-of-a-car and

drove to Asheville's River Arts District-- a developing area right beside the French Broad River with riverside parks, warehouses converted to art studios, galleries, music halls, restaurants and micro-breweries. There, at The Wedge, a River Arts District brew pub, we concluded the day's business and made plans for Wednesday's Nolichucky River trip.

It was a perfect morning for sleeping in, but no, we were up on time, and after a tire change were in line by 8:30 a.m. carpooling to the Nantahala Outdoor Center's Nolichucky River Outpost near Erwin, Tennessee. After a shuttle ride in an old school bus on curvy mountain roads into North Carolina, our team of six was on the river by 10:00 a.m. The weather was still cool and threatening rain, however, we were actually feeling wonderful, being well-suited up for the occasion. With a moderately high water level of 2400 cfs we could still relax between the numerous class III and IV + rapids and enjoy the scenery of this beautiful

Nolichucky Gorge which takes you from North Carolina into Tennessee. Both Steve Hendricks and our raft guide talked about the natural history of the area, and told about a "lost city" of 1860's settlers, living high above the Nolichucky to escape the Civil War, who were eventually cut off from civilization in the early 1930's after losing access to the railroad for supplies. The Nolichucky River was recommended by the US Forest Service as a National Wild and Scenic River in the early 1990's but to date Congress has not acted on the recommendation. Other than the railroad and a few signs of local camping, this Nolichucky section is pristine and remote, certainly a great river trip to be offered to our 2012 Symposium guests. So as the hospitality chairperson, I hope to see you in Asheville for some interesting river management information, fine river trips, and the best BBQ, Bluegrass, and Beer in the nation. ♦

Lee Larson and Gary Marsh (front left in raft) lead the way, with Steve Hendricks in step behind Lee.

Photo: NOC



(Upper Missouri, from page 8)

Visitors embark into a capacious river corridor that seemingly swallows even the largest groups and are treated to a remoteness not often found in the 21st Century.

Optimum periods for boating are May through September with fishing and hunting use replacing leisure boating during the shoulder seasons. Compared to other rivers in the Northwest, visitation is relatively low with an annual average over the past ten years of about five thousand registered boaters during the boating season. With 149 miles of river and several public launch points to choose from trip lengths may vary from one day to ten or more. By far the most popular float taking in the scenic White Cliffs, expends two nights with the takeout on the third day. In this section, visitors will find developed boat camps with vault toilets, fire rings and superb hiking opportunities, not to mention the hauntingly beautiful, geographic splendor of the region. For those with a few days to spare an extension of this trip permits the adventurous sort to take in the even more remote and uniquely appealing "Breaks" of the lower river section.

The contact point for any excursion on the Upper Missouri should begin by contacting the Lewistown Field Office or Fort Benton River Management Station, collocated with the Upper Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center on the north bank of the river in Fort Benton, MT. The staff at this first rate facility can provide a wealth of information on the Monument's varied recreational opportunities, as well as other significant cultural, and historical sites in the surrounding area. Visitors not fully equipped to go it alone can enlist the aid of commercial outfitters, many of whom live locally and offer a plethora of services such as canoe rentals, fully guided canoe trips, motorized boat trips and vehicle shuttles. For more information or to plan your trip:

Contacts:

BLM Lewistown Field Office
406-538-1900

Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center
406-622-4000 / 877-256-3252

Mark Schaefer
406-622-4015 / mschaefer@blm.gov

Brian Woolf
406-622-4005 / bwoolf@blm.gov

Website: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewis_town_field_office/umrbnm.html ♦

(Wipper, from page 24)

When Wipper wasn't in the classroom, he was outside teaching youngsters about the natural world. In 1954, the CBC ran a series entitled Walk with Kirk, which featured Wipper as he travelled to various locations teaching about the importance of conservation and protection of the environment, long before environmentalism became mainstream. Wipper's concern that young people were often not given the opportunity to appreciate the natural world led him to purchase Camp Kandalore in 1957. Kandalore was an all-boys camp located near Minden, Ont. As owner/director, Wipper's formula for success focused on what he referred to as the three Ws: water safety, woodsmanship and wilderness travel.

In the late 1950s, he began his extraordinary collection of canoes, beginning with a gift from his former mentor, Prof. Griffiths. It was a rare, Payne Brothers basswood dugout circa 1890. For many years it hung in the dining hall at Kandalore, before becoming the centrepiece of the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ont.

Executive director of the museum and former Kandalore camper, James Raffan, describes Wipper's fascination for the canoe. "Kirk loved canoes because they were both functional and beautiful. Part of that beauty is that they were wrought from the materials of the earth by the hands of this country's first peoples. ... Kirk knew that in amassing a collection of canoes he was creating a unique and highly significant portrait of the country that would endure."

Wipper travelled across the country acquiring canoes and housed them at Kandalore in a building which in the late 1960s became the Kanawa International Museum of Canoes, Kayaks and Rowing Craft – the world's largest collection of watercraft. Eventually, the collection grew to more than 500 canoes and artifacts and Peterborough was suggested as the perfect location for a permanent museum. With the help of enthusiastic volunteers, many from Trent University, the concept of a knowledge centre about the role of the canoe was developed. In 1997, the museum opened its doors to the public.

Wipper sold Kandalore in 1978 and retired from the School of Physical Education and Health in 1987. Divorced in the early 1980s, he met Ann Angotti in 1988. They were married in 1992 and settled in Keene, Ont.

A new chapter of Wipper's life began as he found himself in constant demand to head a variety of camping associations and conservation organizations. His efforts were recognized in 2002 when he became a Member of the Order of Canada as well as the Order of St. John.

Another cause close to his heart was the Circle of All Nations, founded by long-time friend, Chief William Commanda, the Algonquin Elder from the Kitigan Zibi Reserve. Their friendship had begun when Wipper began to buy Commanda's birch bark canoes as part of his collection. The Circle consists of individuals committed to the environment, Canada's water resources, racial harmony and respect for indigenous wisdom. Its tenets reflected Wipper's own personal creed: "You have to do what you can, do your best with what you are. And you have to believe in wilderness. If you do that, you can't go wrong."

Kirk served for several years as "Patron" for the Canadian River Management Society, the Canadian Chapter of RMS. He leaves his wife, Ann, and children, Douglas, David and Joanna, and stepson Michael and his grandchildren, and many of the close friends he has made through his association with the River Management Society.

Kirk will be greatly missed. James Raffan said it best at his Funeral Service, "With the passing of Kirk, many of us have lost our compass...." We are at a loss just now, as to what we should do to pursue our dreams for the environment and for the place of rivers and the canoe in Canadian history and in our personal lives, without the great confidence we all had, with the voice of Kirk guiding us. ♦

For more stories, interviews and photos:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoHXs_0uivc

<http://www.kirkwipper.ca/>

<http://gallery.me.com/circleofallnations#100069>

Trans CanEAUda is a cross Canada canoe expedition. A concern for the world's degrading natural environments, particularly water environments, is motivating this group.

Learn more: <http://transcanadaen.wordpress.com/home/>

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To Join RMS

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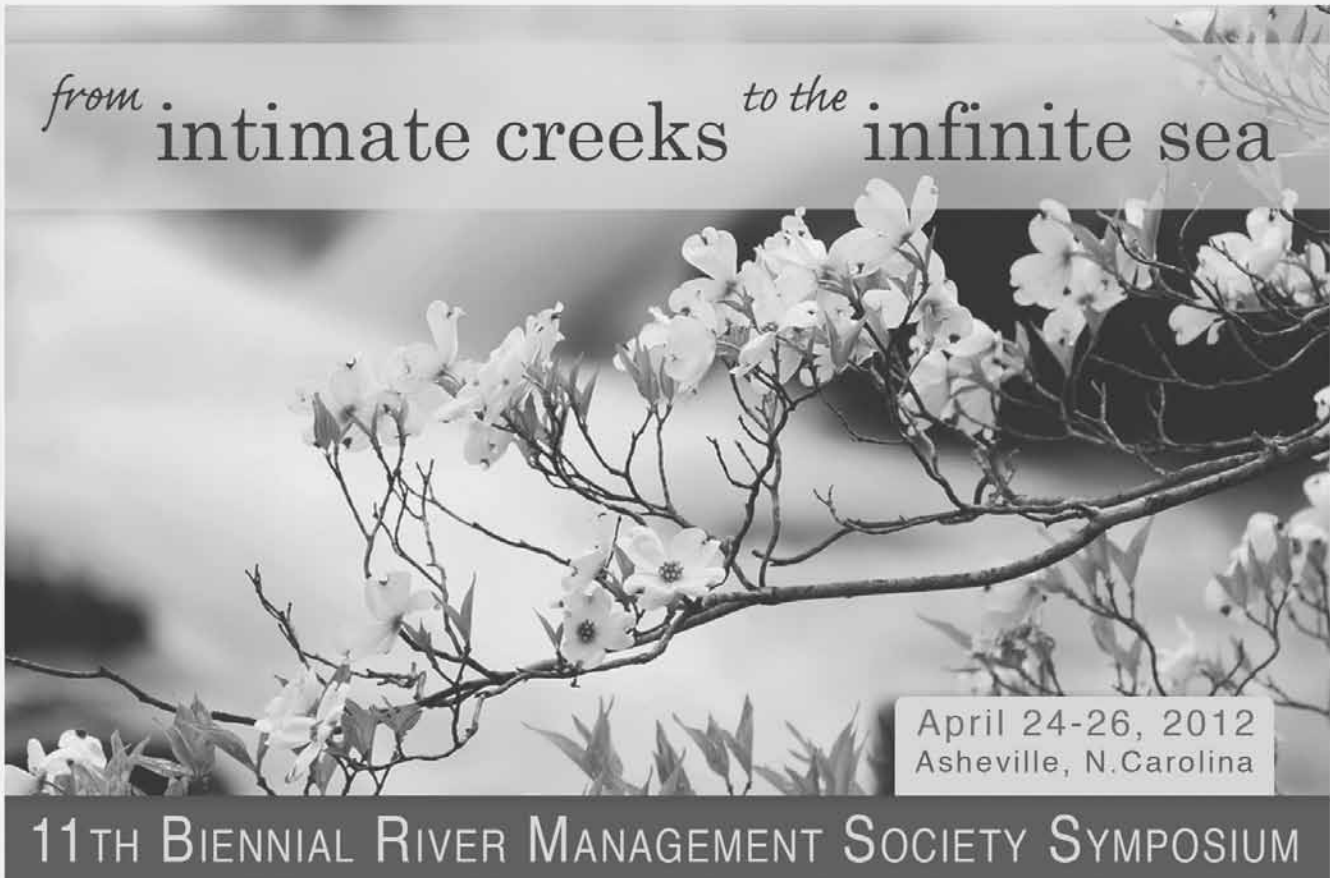




Next RMS Journal Deadline (featuring the Northeast Chapter): Submissions due August 1, 2011.

“The city of Asheville, North Carolina, is a bustling heart of southern Appalachia. Although famous for its history and culture, it is also known for its natural beauty, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad rivers.”

(full article on page 28)



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