

PADDLE SPLASHES

**Canoe & Kayak Committee
Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter**

OCTOBER 2019

**Sedge
Island**

**the
Cedar**



**Hiring
a Guide**

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October 2019



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Cover: Henry Kessin paddling Browns Tract Inlet on Rich Breton's Adirondack Fall Foliage trip, Oct, 2019. Photo by Marty Plante.



Invitation Accepted:

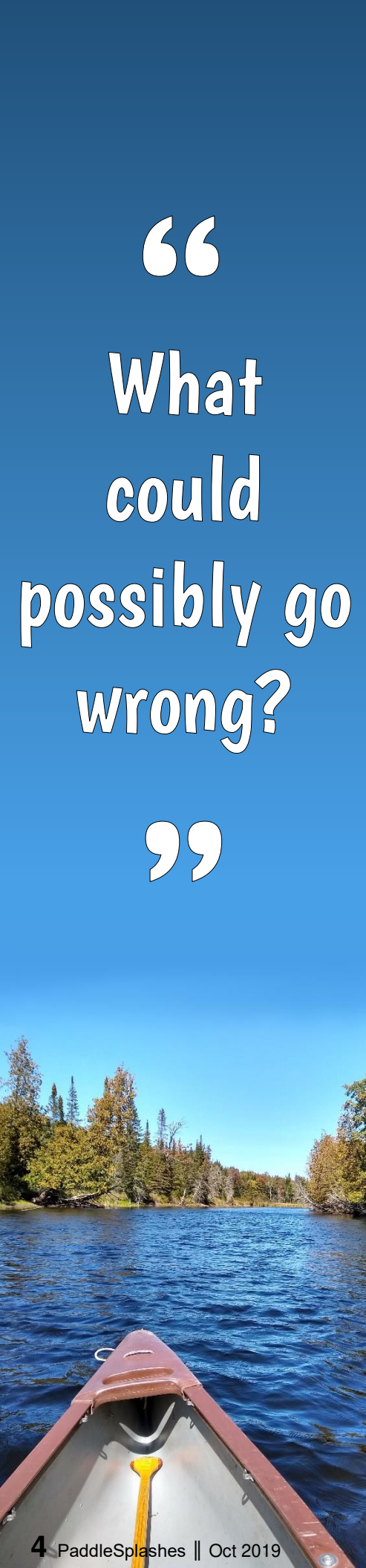
BY MARTY PLANTE

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Time to See The Cedar

To a canoeist or kayaker, it sounded too good to be true. And it was.

For decades, I had been driving past the Cedar River where it crosses Route 28 in the central Adirondacks. Like all paddlers, I would crane my neck each time, fantasizing about a trip down the inviting stream.



“

What
could
possibly go
wrong?

”

For a hundred years, a day trip on the Cedar was impractical without permission from the hunting and fishing club that controlled the take-out point, but in 2013 Gov. Cuomo announced that new lands added to the Adirondack Forest Preserve would make the Cedar River available.

“Starting today, this land along the Hudson and Cedar Rivers, which has been closed to the public for the past century, will open for New Yorkers to enjoy this summer and fall. I encourage everyone to come explore the many outdoor recreational activities that this breathtaking area has to offer,” said the governor's press release.

I'm not one to turn down an invitation, especially when it involves a new river to canoe on. It seemed that I would have another playground to float my boat. If only it were that simple.

Having been out of the public's reach for so long, there are no descriptions of the river in any of my guidebooks. An Internet search turned up nothing useful and none of my paddling buddies had ever paddled it. But satellite images on Google Maps seemed to show a shallow course with mostly flatwater and only a few short and easy rapids. Part of my brain (the part I usually listen to) was telling me not to go on such a remote trip alone. But the other part kept nagging, “What could possibly go wrong?” so I decided it was time to see the Cedar.

I knew from my prior trips that the Upper Hudson could only be run at times of high water. I assumed (correctly, it turned out) that the Hudson's neighbor, the Cedar, was much the same. The Department of Environmental Conservation has a practical, but inconvenient, habit of closing the access road to the Outer Gooley Club take-out point during mud season, when the river levels are perfect for paddling.



At that time of year, it's possible to drive only to a parking lot where Gooley Club Road enters the Hudson Gorge Wilderness, requiring a 2½ mile schlep—with your boat—from the take-out to your car. This is also the time of year when the Adirondack backcountry is filled with blood-sucking black flies that think you're an All-U-Can-Eat buffet. Ugggh. When the mud dries up, the gate will be opened and you can park near the take-out, but by then the high water will be gone and you'll likely have to wait for a fortuitous hurricane. God giveth with one hand and taketh with the other.

A trip on the Cedar is possible only when the [Hudson River gauge at Newcomb](#) registers four feet or higher, something that may happen only a few days per summer. The governor's invitation to explore was beginning to seem optimistic. With the spring road closures and low midsummer water levels, the Cedar will probably never be a popular destination.

Says Ralph Pascale, chairman of the Adirondack Mountain Club's whitewater paddlers, "Like many Adirondack rivers, summer levels on the Cedar are unpredictable. Our paddling schedule is planned months in advance, making it impractical to schedule a trip there. It's unlikely that we'll ever have an organized trip on the Cedar, but we may make last-minute plans to run it when Mother Nature cooperates."

When the river first became available to the public in 2013, I monitored the river gauge each week or so, eagerly looking for an opportunity to visit. Weeks ran into month that ran into years. Last year, I resolved to find a day to paddle it. I gazed at the website all summer, but didn't get my chance until October, when a few days of heavy rain raised the river to a runnable level for a single day. The knock of opportunity that I had been waiting for had finally arrived.



“
**The river began just as I
expected: calm, shallow,
and very secluded.**
”

My trip began at the end. I drove my car to the takeout point: the 1928 farmhouse of Olive and Mike Gooley just upstream of the confluence of the Indian and Hudson Rivers. The farmhouse was later used for hunting and fishing by Outer Gooley Club members, then acquired by New York State six years ago. The building has since been in limbo while various parties bicker over what should be done with it. For now, it marks the parking area used by paddlers, fishermen and hikers.

We left one car at the take-out, then my darling wife Elisa drove my boat and me to my starting point, seven miles away in the hamlet of Indian Lake. The river began just as I expected: calm, shallow, and very secluded. I passed a vacation home just downstream of where I launched, but for the rest of my 13-mile, 5-hour trip, I didn't see any other humans or man-made objects. My only escorts for the

day were the usual menagerie of ducks, geese and a somewhat annoyed great blue heron. It was too late in the year for the typical garden of riverside wildflowers (swamp milkweed, joe pye weed and cardinal flowers), but the October foliage was a magnificent substitute. The yellow birches and red maples were at their peak and the tamaracks were making their slow journey from parrot green to canary yellow.

If you think flatwater is boring, you won't be bored for long. Less than an hour after launching my canoe, I came to the first rapid: Pashley Falls, an easy Class 2 section that terminates with a 20-inch ledge drop (Adirondack place names allow for a very generous interpretation of the word 'falls'). I parked my boat on the right shore and walked along the Pashley Falls Ski Trail to scout the drop from downstream. Kayakers will enjoy boofing the small pourover on the left; canoeists will prefer the deeper center tongue.

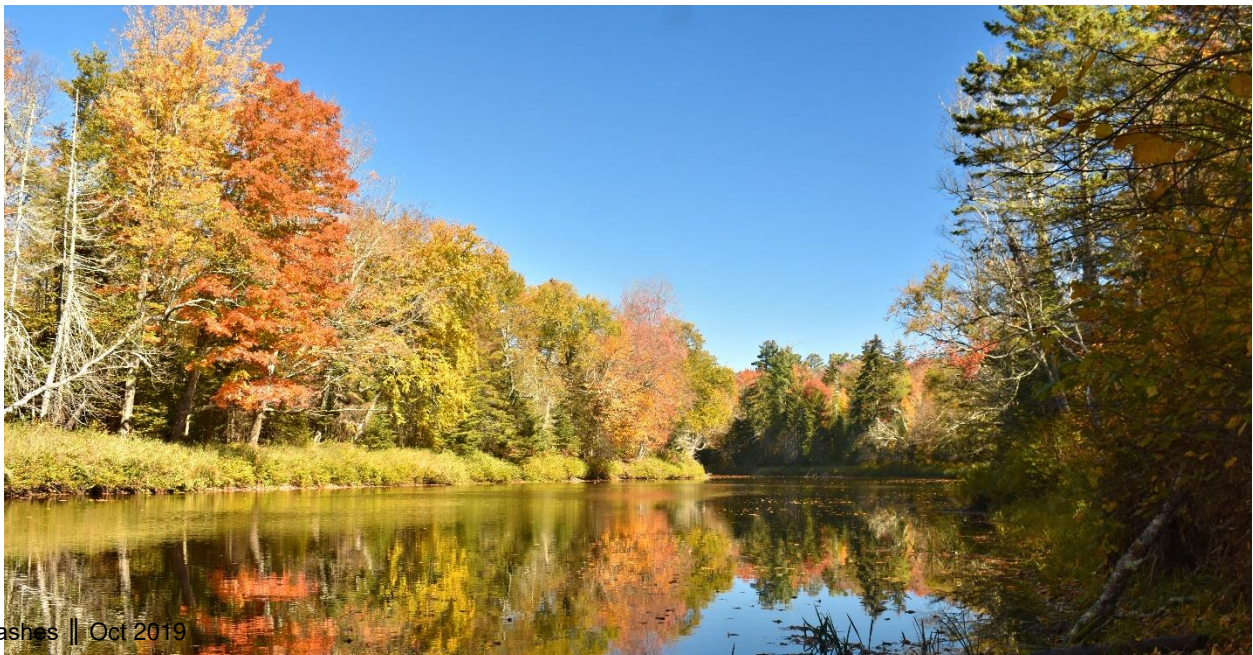
I had expected the trip to be mostly flatwater with only a few easy rapids, but soon found that it was an alternating mix of flatwater and Class 2-3 rock gardens with lots of stones to dodge. Although the rapids aren't very difficult for an experienced whitewater paddler, the unfamiliarity of the river to me, the remoteness of the area, and the absence of any certified lifeguards made me cautious. A sprained wrist or damaged boat in the middle of nowhere would have really ruined my day, so I played it safe and stopped to scout the bigger rapids before committing to run them.

At the minimum-runnable level, most of the rapids have tight lines with a single clear route, so there's no opportunity for surfing or eddy hopping. Higher levels (4.5 feet or more on the gauge) would probably afford more route choices. On one shallow rapid, I misjudged the depth of a standing wave and found myself balanced on a rock, rotating in the

current like the plastic ballerina on a music box. When my boat slid off the rock, I was facing upstream and had to paddle the rest of the rapid backwards, a useful skill that I've had to employ on more than a few occasions.

If you decide to go, this isn't the trip to try out your grandfather's old Grumman canoe. You'll need a real whitewater canoe or kayak and the whitewater skills to go with it. If you don't know an eddy turn from a peel-out, pick a different river.

There are no visible mountains or other landmarks, so leave your topo map and compass at home (if you haven't already hawked them on eBay). While I'm generally opposed to consumer electronics in the backcountry, you'll need a smartphone to monitor your progress on the Cedar. Cell service is unreliable on the river, so download an offline copy of the local area to Google Maps before leaving home. If you don't know how



IF YOU GO

to do this, ask any 12-year old for tech support.

The Cedar saves the best for last. Its largest rapid starts about 150 yards before joining the Hudson, described as a Class 4 drop on the [American Whitewater](#) website, but it was a tamer Class 3 on my trip. The remaining three miles on the Hudson to the Outer Gooley Club have addition Class 2-3 rapids, but these are less technical, with just standing waves to float over.

I spotted the sign at the take-out, standing there like an old friend, telling me that my adventure was over and it was time to head home. My day on the water had been the best kind, enjoyable but uneventful, and I returned home without one of those river stories that my wife shakes her head at.

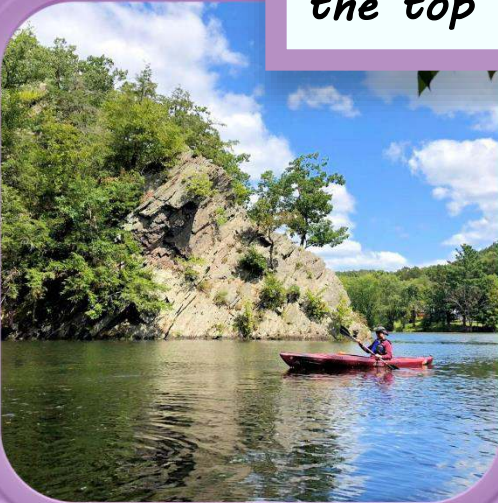


- 1) The best time to paddle the Cedar is in the spring, immediately after the DEC opens the access road to the Outer Gooley Club take-out and the water level is still high. This is also the time of year when the Adirondack backcountry is filled with little flying vampires, so bring your bug spray of choice.
- 2) To get to the put-in point, go north on Pelon Rd from the hamlet of Indian Lake. Keep going left onto Benton Rd until you get to the river (GPS [43.792397, -74.289057](#)). There's plenty of parking.
- 3) The normal take-out point is just south of the Outer Gooley Club farmhouse (GPS [43.827301, -74.200674](#)), located on the Hudson just upstream of its confluence with the Indian River. Much of it is on a dirt road, so it's slow going, but you won't need a high-clearance vehicle. From Route 28 near Indian Lake, go north on Chain Lakes Road South until you get to the farmhouse and parking lot. (This is not the same road as Chain Lakes Road North, near Goodnow Flow, and the two roads are not connected.) The trail down to the Hudson takeout is 100 yards south of the farmhouse.
- 4) Once you put on the river, there is only one mid-trip egress point. If you're running out of daylight or stamina, you can get off the Cedar River where the unpaved Gooley Club Road meets the river, about 1.5 miles before the confluence with the Hudson. Walk south along the road for three miles to your car at the Outer Gooley Club take-out. The road isn't visible from the river, so look for it when you get to GPS coordinates [43.852934, -74.231114](#).
- 5) Don't go solo! Had I known this would be a whitewater trip, I never would have done it alone. Accidents happen to paddlers of all skill levels, so a trip on the Cedar should include at least three boats.

How I Spent My **SUMMER VACATION**

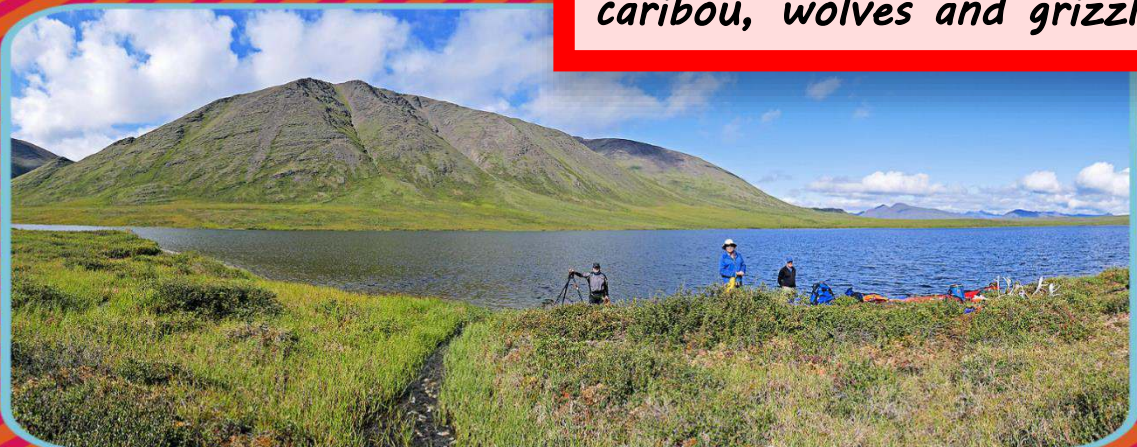
RUSS FALLER

In August, I led a joint AMC/ADK trip to Lake Lillinonah, an impoundment of the Housatonic River in CT. We stretched our legs climbing to the top and enjoyed the fantastic view.



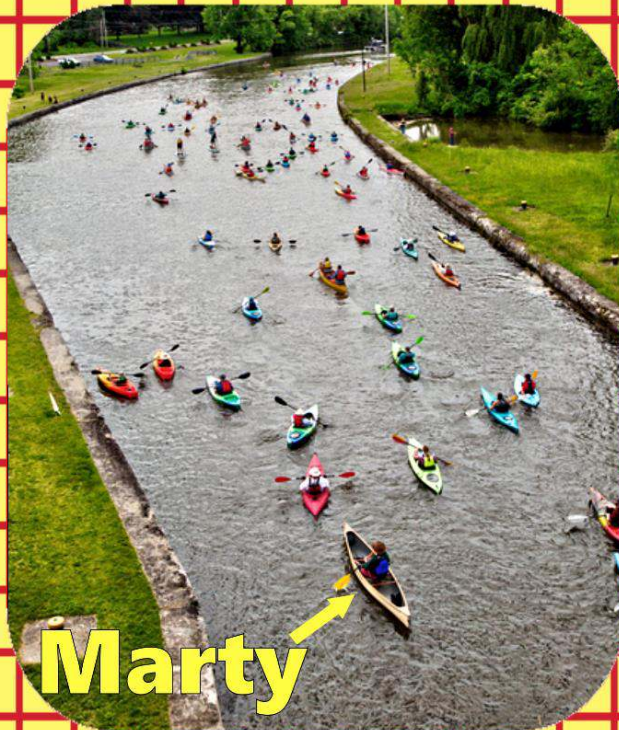
CURT GELLERMAN

I paddled 212 miles on Alaska's Alatna River. Our bush plane with floats landed on the surface of a lake, within sight of the Continental Divide. Within 24 hours of launching our pack canoes, we saw caribou, wolves and grizzlies.



MARTY PLANTE

I cruised on the Erie Canal with 100 other paddlers during this summer's Paddle the Flight event. Our trip through five locks provided a 169-foot drop, without any whitewater. Best of all, I got to see myself in a local newspaper, thanks to a photo drone that followed us.



LORETTA BRADY

I spent a week on the Churchill River in Canada's Saskatchewan Province. It was 150 km of rapids, portages and stunning scenery.



ROB HOLBROOK

I competed in the Con Ed Cardboard Kayak Race in July at Manhattan Beach, City of Water Day. Two hours to build a tandem boat with cardboard and packing tape. She was a good boat, built for speed, not stability. We won the classic boat design award. Race results: we are all in-between swims.



NEIL GROSSMAN

I paddled in Colorado with my daughter and two grandchildren, including the Taylor River, shown here.



SOZANNE SOLMAZ

I spent six amazing days at the Ottawa River in Canada. The surf waves are fantastic and I learned so much!

MORE INFO



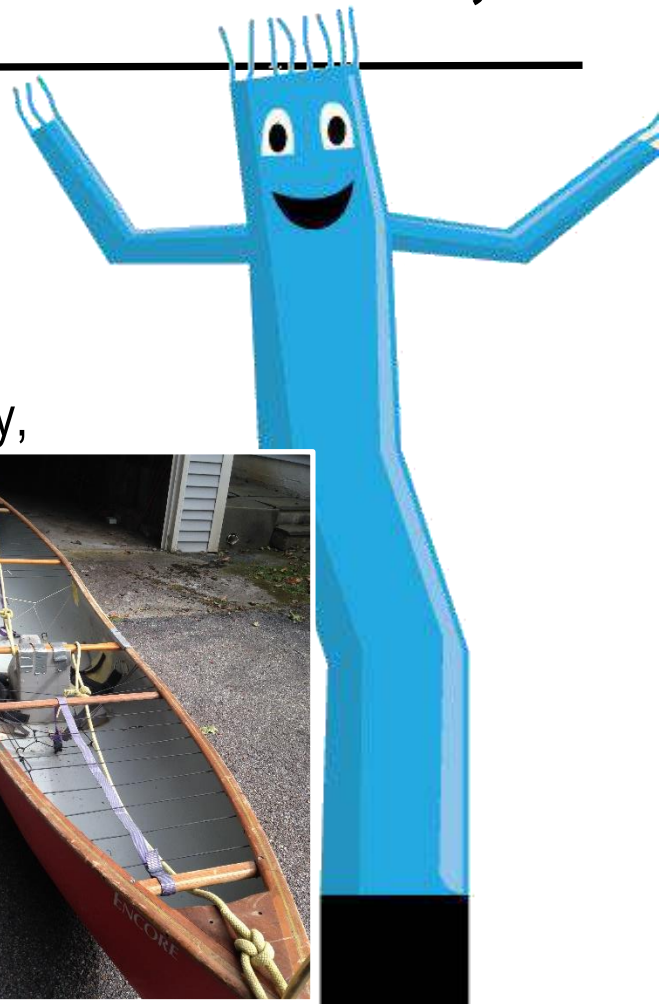
Wilderness First Aid Instruction

**If you play where
ambulances can't
drive, you need
this course.**

**Fri-Sun, Nov 22-24, 2019
AMC Mohican Outdoor Center,
Blairstown, NJ**

**Dagger Encore
canoe for sale
only \$350**

ABS hull, wood gunnels, responsive and dry,
some Kevlar patches, good condition.
Linda Polstein, 914-449-6855,
lindapolstein@gmail.com



Mediocre

NO MORE

BY DAVID BLUMBERG

Ever feel like a terminal intermediate?

Bust off that perennial plateau. Canoe legend and much sought after ACA instructor David Blumberg lends essential advice “in praise of the ferry.” AMC NY-NoJ attendees at the Week of Rivers trip were lucky enough to paddle with David and test out these tips. To tell you the truth, they hold water.

When I first started paddling, I remember how crossing a current without moving down stream seemed like magic (still does!).

The ferry is the crux whitewater move. If you can ferry, you can do all the rest. You will have learned the two ingredients of paddling: boat control, and water reading. In my (rarely humble) opinion, you are not a Class 3 paddler just because you can make it down a Class 3 river. You must be able to ferry in Class 3 current to be a Class 3

paddler. Same for whatever Class you run. Are you in control, or is the river controlling you?

Far too many paddlers—not just beginners and novices—come out of an eddy losing their boat angle to thus get blown downstream.

A Whitewater Paddler’s Manifesto

Fortunately, the ferry is an easy skill to master. It combines all the elements of paddling such that when everything clicks, you’ll possess the



David and paddling partner Bart Simpson at Twin Eddies on the Nolichucky.

basic skills needed to be a very competent boater.

The key is to start with the easiest current you can find that has good eddies on each side. Paddle back and forth across the river until you get the feel for how it is done. Hold your angle coming out of the eddy. Maintain your speed and momentum until you reach the eddy on the other side. Repeat until it is easy, automatic, and comfortable.

That's really all there is to it.

Now you can practice in slightly faster current. The principles will be the same. If your bow turns downstream, figure out how to adjust to compensate. Keep at it until it's second nature. Then, move up to some faster water and repeat. Staying with what is comfortable for *you*, your comfort

level increases along with your skills.

If at First You Don't Succeed, Keep on Ferrying

To help your ferries, you should tune, refine, and perfect your paddling strokes.

Take a clinic and learn the proper techniques. You can flail away on lakes or rivers in any form of paddling, but you should strive to increase the *efficiency* of all your strokes. As you move up in Class, routes narrow. Margins for error shrink. Pure strokes become crucial to success.

To come out of an eddy and cross the current, you will need to be able to *accelerate* from a dead stop holding a straight line (at ferry angle). Lack of speed has sent many a bow

turning down river. But what if the eddy is small, not allowing a running start? Practice gaining essential speed quickly, directionally even on flat water.

Develop your *vision*. View not just in the macro sense relating to your destination, but also in the micro sense of what current moves around the boat. Often a small hesitation eddy, or another, almost hidden feature throws off a ferry angle. Recognize these.

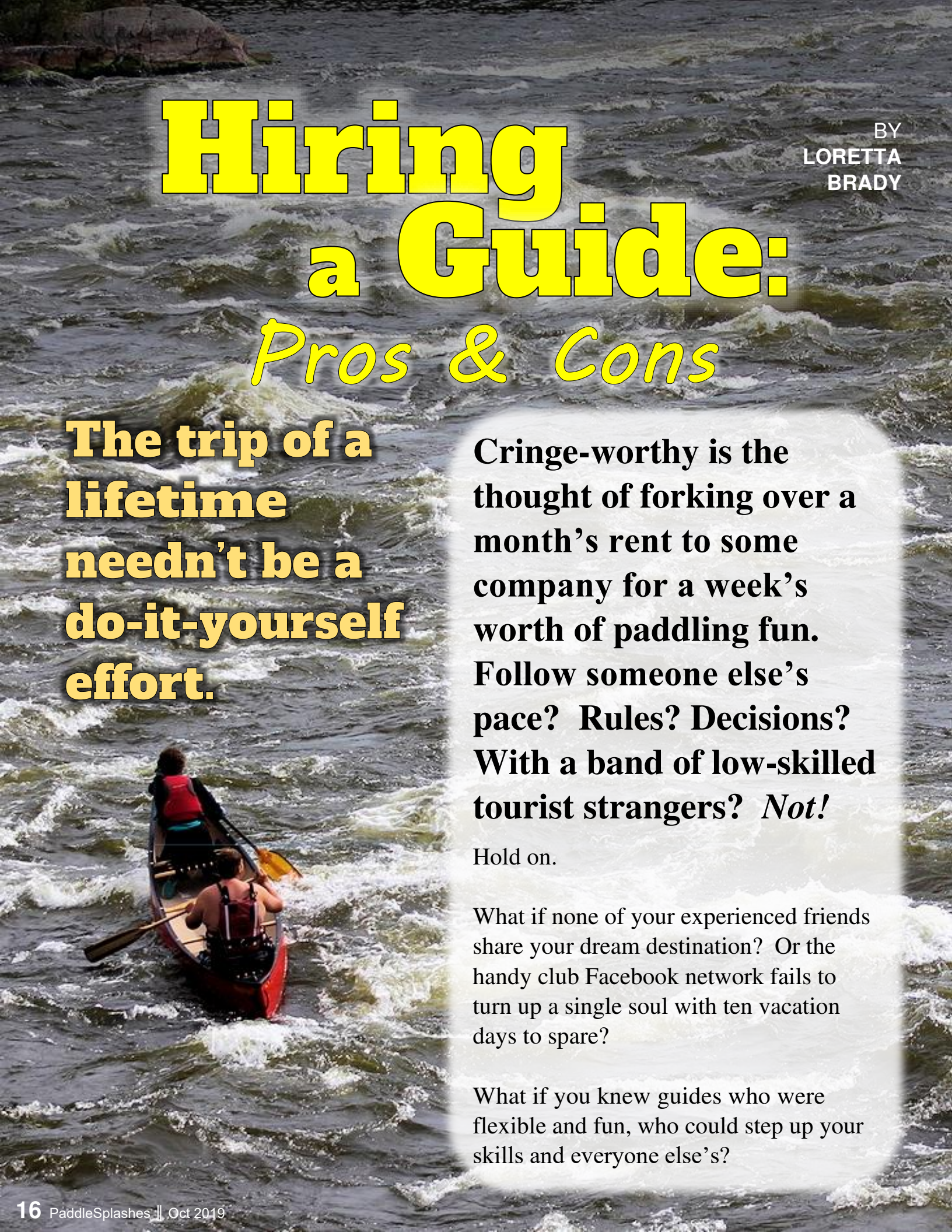
David cruising on Cucumber on the Lower Yough.

Above all: *Pay Attention!*

Nothing is random. Things on the river happen for a reason. I remind myself, “It’s the current, stupid!” When your vision improves, the speed of the water will “drop.” You’ll tune in to the contours of the water as if slipping across on solid “ice.” Is there a bump to leap over? A trough that can help? Stroke *timing* and *placement* are key. Each stroke is an event, like meditating on the breath.

Work ferries constantly, all day long. When you have that down, work a back ferry. You will see dramatic improvements in your abilities, your comfort level, and your enjoyment.





Hiring a Guide: *Pros & Cons*

BY
LORETTA
BRADY

The trip of a lifetime needn't be a do-it-yourself effort.

Cringe-worthy is the thought of forking over a month's rent to some company for a week's worth of paddling fun. Follow someone else's pace? Rules? Decisions? With a band of low-skilled tourist strangers? *Not!*

Hold on.

What if none of your experienced friends share your dream destination? Or the handy club Facebook network fails to turn up a single soul with ten vacation days to spare?

What if you knew guides who were flexible and fun, who could step up your skills and everyone else's?

W

here can you find such an animal? Ask Mark Tiernan who'll explain

that's why he repeatedly chooses to join a group of "strangers" through AMC's Adventure Travel expeditions.

Or our own Brian Horowitz will invite you to paddle with him on his own coming AMC AT excursion. He and his co-pathfinder, also specially trained, will lead a remote paddling trip next year in Algonquin Park (see

below). His is just one of the many AT options. While most emphasize hiking with a little boating on the side, his promises full-frontal paddling.

Another source for worry-free guiding is one of Canada's best-kept professional secrets: [Churchill River Outfitters](#), specialists in remote adventures in the most pristine waterways on the planet, many of them brimming with beautiful rapids.

They don't advertise. That tells you something.

Algonquin Wilderness Canoe Trip

**MORE
DETAILS**

**Sun-Fri,
Aug 9-14, 2020**

Explore the pristine lakes, sandy beaches, and the call of the loons and wolves in Ontario's Algonquin Park.





Become an AMC Adventure Travel Leader

**Mar 13-15, 2020
Charlton, MA**

**Tell
Me
More**

You'd have heard of them if you geeked out on the documentary series Canada's Great Rivers, as I did. Ric Driediger directs and narrates the episode on the historic Churchill River in wild boreal Saskatchewan. "When you ask me which is my favorite trip we offer, I think of the wonderful group of people I was with, not just the stunning scenery, incredible wildlife encounters or exciting rapids," says Ric.

Wonderful people they were. At no extra cost. At a trip's end, he and his family invite guests to a barbecue to share stories and highlights. Also no extra charge!

Plus, with the right company, the overall price works out closer to a discounted group rate than a surcharge for going self-guided.

"Our guides are amazing wilderness chefs, and good teachers who share all the skills needed on remote trips," Ric added.

My experience with them this summer near the 56th parallel north bumped up my OC2 whitewater stylings, taught me to rope off a drifting float plane, *and* sharpened my wildlife identification of swimming bears, barking otters, surfing pelicans and circling hawks.

"The guide brings an element of safety," Ric added. "They are well trained in Wilderness First Aid. They have Swift Water Rescue training and are skilled whitewater paddlers," said Ric. They take the worry out of the trip so we can relax.

Still, don't be shy about self-arranging that visit to CKC members who've moved away—say, for example, to the sea kayaking paradise of Hawaii. Self-guided island paddle, anyone?

It's just great to know you don't have to give up your dream trip just because you don't know anyone who lives near the Arctic Circle.

The Mighty Mongaup **EXPANDS**

BY LORETTA BRADY

**AMC and
American
Whitewater
collaborate
to secure
more
Mongaup
releases.**



Few rivers are as synonymous with boating bliss than this two-mile stretch of near continuous Class II+ fun.

Show up for a run at one of 15 regular releases, April through October, and you'll wind up crashing impromptu reunions or inter-club barbecues.

What if we got this party started more often? And lasting longer?

That's what advocates at AMC are asking as Eagle Creek Renewable Energy seeks relicensing.

The dynamic duo, Mark Zakutansky, AMC's Director of Conservation Policy Engagement—and may we add Class IV open boater and world-class new dad—along with Bob Nasdor, American Whitewater's Northeast Steward and Legal Director, have joined forces to lobby for six possible scenarios that may double the release schedule—even adding two day events—and expand outflows to the bypass reach upstream at Rio Dam.

“AMC is working locally, securing flows for paddlers and for better environmental outcomes,” Mark explains, “and nationally, working on the Steering Committee of the Hydropower Reform Coalition, serving on the Board of the Low Impact Hydro Institute, and participating in national and state level policy issues around rivers.”

It's a delicate trick balancing the needs of all stakeholders, both aquatic and human. Check out the distribution list of Eagle Creek's Whitewater Study to get an idea of how far the impacts reach: from agricultural and fish and wildlife departments, to leaders of the Delaware and Mohican nations. No one wants erratic flows, elevated temperatures, or low levels of dissolved oxygen that stress bluegills, eagles, and paddlers alike.

“AMC is working on programs that have been used to protect river corridors and river access locations,” Mark said. One example is the Tohickon Creek take-out that was purchased with the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

There are even more reasons to raise hopes for rising river access region-wide.

AW recently coordinated a boat study to test future new releases at two bypass sections in the Adirondacks. Part of the West Canada Creek hydro relicensing, this effort just might add two gems to our trip scheduling: one a Class I/II, the other Class II/II+. Bob rallied paddlers to evaluate three different flows over each two-to-three mile stretch.



Neil Grossman on the Mongaup.
Photo by Milana Buslovsky.

Mark also has his eyes on expanding recreational flows at the Deerfield and Connecticut rivers.

What can we do to help?

AMC, American Whitewater, and Andy Frey of KCCNY need boaters to come out to the Mongaup release on October 27 to test the flow level for the bypass reach.

“We’re not sure how paddlers will feel about the level on October 27th, and wanted to look at scenarios for different bypass flows,” Mark said. Releasing from separate gates, that means, “Potentially we could get I+

below the powerhouse or maybe II,” says Bob.

Come out October 27 even if just for the main run. There’s bound to be fun with a whole cast of characters to meet, new friends and old.

Rob will pull a Happy Hour cheese from his daughter’s Yummy Bears soft cooler bag. Curt spin stories of his latest Alaska adventure in between prouder tales of his 4-year-old grandson’s bow draws. Camilla will dispense newbie support and her cherished swimmers’ cookies.

Hope we see you there!

Releases on the Mongaup are Now Reliable. They Almost Never Happened.

BY MARTY PLANTE

Today, the Mongaup River provides reliable whitewater when most other rivers are dry. For nearly thirty years, it has drawn thousands of paddlers each year in search of a predictable and enjoyable boating opportunity. Things could have been very different.

In the early 1990s, numerous organizations, towns and state agencies lobbied against the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) plan to allow recreational weekend releases on the Mongaup. NY State’s intention to establish a boating access point near the mouth of the Mongaup River was also condemned. The [Upper Delaware Council](#), a river conservation organization, argued that the planned releases would jeopardize boater safety and create unsafe conditions for rescuing accident victims.

The Lumberland (NY) Fire Dept. agreed, stating in a letter to the National Park Service, "...this department is totally against the release of more water on the Mongaup River for kayaking. We were, and still are against the use of this river by kayakers on the basis that this river is almost totally inaccessible to rescue personnel, should an emergency occur."

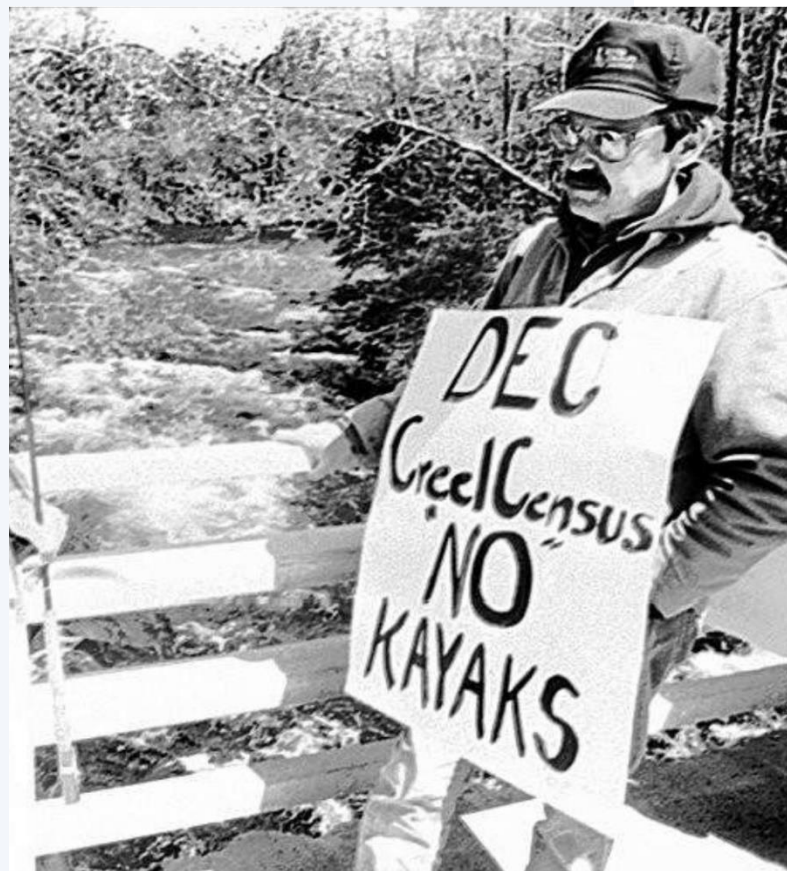
The Orange County Audubon Society, the Sullivan County Board of Supervisors, and others opposed whitewater boating along the lower Mongaup, believing that the paddlers would adversely affect the area's bald eagles, designated as a federally endangered species at the time.

And the fishing community mounted [strong opposition](#) to paddlers' intrusion on what had been their exclusive domain. Fishing has always been a traditional use on the Mongaup

Twenty local anglers protested in 1990 against the paddlers they feared would run fishermen off the Mongaup River. Photo courtesy of [The Times Herald-Record](#).

River. In 1990, Sullivan County, the City of Port Jervis, and numerous fishing clubs opposed whitewater boating because they believed paddlers and anglers are inherently incompatible and that they cannot use the same river at the same time.

The paddling community and the National Park Service fought back. Ultimately, regularly scheduled weekend releases were established in the early 1990s. After years of additional lobbying, principally by [American Whitewater](#) and [KCCNY](#), double-barreled releases were added to the schedule in 2004.





**You're Invited to the
AMC Paddlers'
Holiday Party &
"Pub Crawl" Hike**



Sat, Dec 7, 2019

Buddha Beer Bar

4476 Broadway

NYC

(Right by the express 'A'
train, 190 Street stop)

**\$2 for on-line reservation by 12/1/2019
\$5 afterwards and at the door
Free for 2019 Canoe/Kayak trip leaders**

***Celebrate the
season with
good friends,
good cheer,
good food.***

Hikers meet at 1:00 pm at Buddha Beer Bar.
We'll toast, then step out for a short hike along forested parks and the
Hudson River, to return and meet the rest for more fun by 3:30.

Happy Hour & Dessert is 4-8pm at Buddha Bar.
Enjoy your own pay-as-you go dinner and drinks.
Apps and desserts generously provided by the Canoe & Kayak
Committee as a thank you to all!

Sedge Island **ROCKS** the Boat

STORY BY LORETTA BRADY
PHOTOS BY MARY ANN HOAG,
DALE ROSSELET,
& DAVID BOYLE

We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails—and the paddle plan.

So it was for 10 undaunted paddlers who heeded their inner migratory instincts to bask in the beauty of Sedge.

Led by Mary Ann Hoag and her lovely assistant, Mark Tiernan, the crew on this annual AMC-Sebago trip faced down sizeable rollers and high winds.

Still, Mark and Chris Viani braved the one-mile crossing from Island Beach State Park out to the refuge. While others hopped aboard the gear-toting pontoon, Mark in his sea kayak and Chris in solo canoe powered through challenging headwinds coming and going.

“One afternoon we could only circumnavigate the island, because of the winds,” said Chris Viani.

No problem. There is plenty to do with fishing, clamming, bird watching or just relaxing. “And plenty of food,” Viani added.

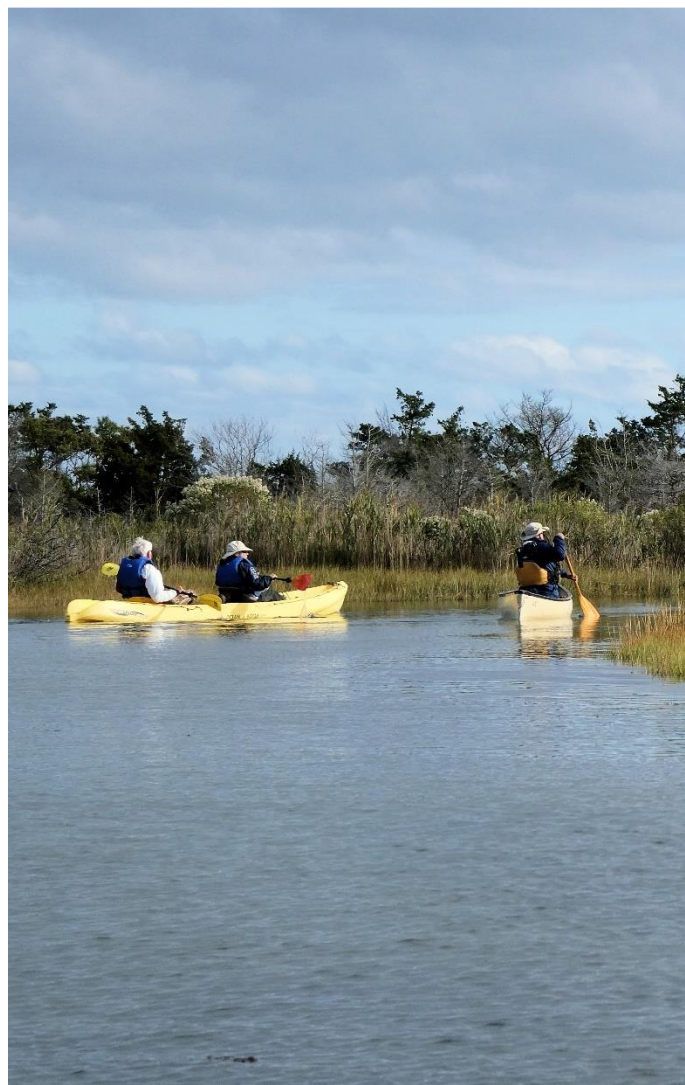


“Even the naturalist guide used the sit-on-top kayaks provided there for us,” noted Mary Ann. “That was a good call on our part,” said Mary Ann, who switched seasons to fall for this year’s trip in order to capture a more natural, remote experience.

And great was their journey’s reward in golden grasses and close companionship, sunsets and wildlife.

“We saw 22 species of birds,” counted Dale Rosselet. The list included Cooper’s hawks soaring in the updrafts, osprey procrastinating before their trip south, and brown pelicans reveling in their bachelorhood. Been out here with us before? Let us know your wish for future migrations.

It’s Sedge for all seasons.



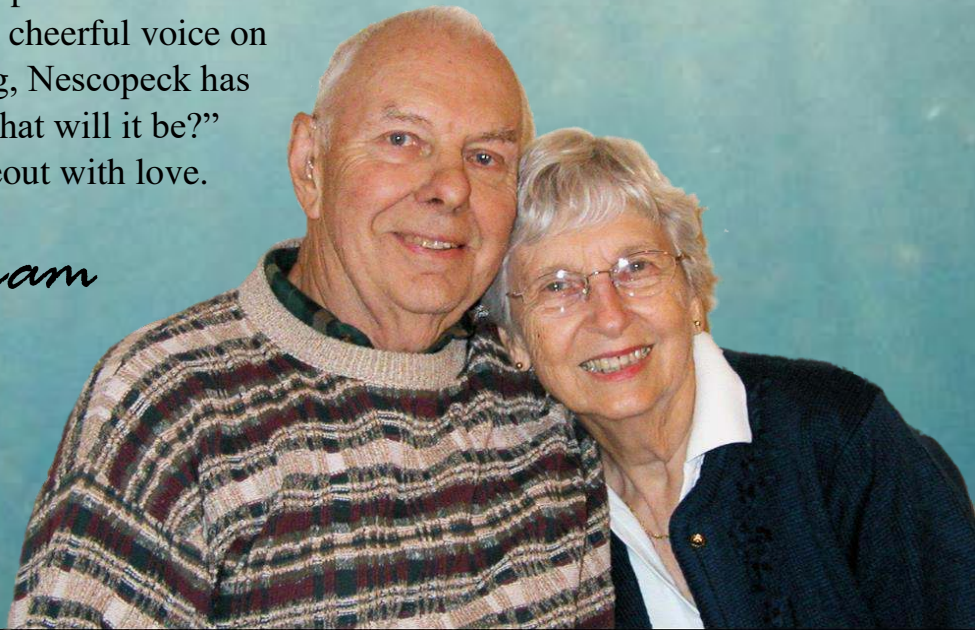
Jim Rideout

1927-2019

The paddling community, and everyone who knew Jim Rideout, lost its local hero when he passed away at 92 on the morning of Sept 12. Jim said he was “ready to go,” and that was typical. Jim was always ready to go, always ready for the next river to paddle and the next adventure in life. He proposed to his wife MaryLu, with whom he was Canoe Committee Chair 1978-1979, by saying “stick with me for thrills and adventures.” Jim’s go-go-go attitude and his Stevens Institute engineering can-do in the face of high water, low water, pouring rain, snow, or equipment failure, was an example to us. I remember paddling the Lehigh with Jim in the pouring rain; he thoroughly enjoyed every minute. Off the river, the Rideouts were kind and generous: they hosted epic canoe-building sessions in their garage and annually hosted a Paddlers Christmas Party benefit. Those parties later became our annual Paddlers’ Party.

Jim and MaryLu retired in 1990 to Arizona where two of their sons, Charlie and Paul, already had a business. They worked together and they paddled the white-water rivers of the West. Jim and Marylu also traveled to distant places—by conventional transportation. They enjoyed their family and were stalwarts of the local church. Jim rode his bicycle around town almost to the end. On the night of Sept. 11, son Paul brought his sleeping bag for a last camp-out with his Dad. Never again will we hear that cheerful voice on the phone: “Lehigh’s running, Nescopeck has water, Esopus looks good; what will it be?” But we’ll remember Jim Rideout with love.

- *Janice Dunham*



It was 1973 and, after many brownwater trips, I was ready to attempt whitewater. Jim Rideout was not only the leader of the Ramapo trip, but I was lucky to also have him as my paddling partner. Jim was standing in the boat, making sure that all the boats put in safely. While we were in clam water, he told me to just paddle for a minute. I paddled right to a pillow, since it looked like very smooth water, and instantly flipped us into the water. I thought that my whitewater experience had come to a sudden halt, but Jim just stood up in the water and started to laugh. I enjoyed that joyous attitude for many more years of paddling with him.

- Henry Kessin

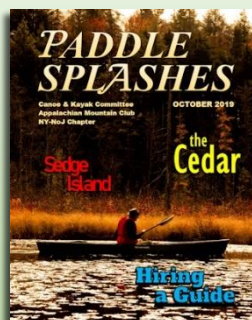


PADDLESPLASHES

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Parting Shots

