

Presenters for Wilderness Paddlers' Gathering - March 13-15, 2015
Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

Louise Abbott and Niels Jensen - Louise and Niels run a multi-media production business called Rural Route Communications in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. They specialize in photo essays, books, and films. Their most recent film is *Nunaaluk: A Forgotten Story* (2014), which has been screened at six film festivals to date; won the Best Film by an Established Filmmaker Award at the Jasper Short Film Festival; and was a finalist for the Best Documentary Short award at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Their most recent book is *Memphrémagog: An Illustrated History / Une histoire illustrée* (2014).

Pasha (Paul) Belenky - Pasha (b.1991) has been a wilderness paddler his whole life. He began paddling in early childhood with his parents who brought their tradition of wilderness living to the United States when they left Russia. Pasha now works for Kroka Exp, a premier wilderness living and adventure sports school based out of Marlow NH as a paddling instructor. Along with the other paddling staff Pasha coordinates Kroka's paddling program and leads their advanced Canadian expeditions every summer. When he isn't in the woods, Pasha is pursuing a career as a painter

Jon Berger is a lifelong paddler, writer, and artist who has traversed Temagami, Labrador, northern Quebec, NE and NW Ontario, NE Manitoba, and the Fond du Lac and Churchill regions of Saskatchewan. It took him 46 years to compile, write, and publish *The Canoe Atlas of The Little North*.

Geoffrey Burke – comes from New Hampshire where he builds lapstrake canoes and makes paddles. He has made over 1000 paddles in his life. His other passion is fine axes.

Lynette Chubb – Lynette is a self-employed artist (<http://acrylart.ca/>) and canoe instructor who has managed to meld her love of the woods & waterways with her city existence & artistic calling. Laco used Chubb Crater (aka Pingualuit) to lure Lynette out of the woods & into the barrens to explore and map many Nunavik Rivers. Their detailed trip reports are all online at <http://sites.google.com/site/LandLtrips/>

Scott Ellis - I am a Schoolteacher and an outdoor enthusiast. I find that being in nature heals me and I do everything I can to get outdoors. I have lead wilderness trips including rock climbing, backpacking, sea kayaking, whitewater rafting, winter camping, cross-country skiing and of course wilderness canoe trips. I have also found a new passion for making amateur videos of my trips and posting them on the Web. One of my life goals is to inspire as many people as possible to get outside and experience the outdoor lifestyle.

Website address: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GuideYouOutdoors>

Seth Gibson – Seth started leading wilderness trips for Keewaydin in 1967 in Quebec and the Mistissini Lake region and on the George River, and went on to become the Coordinator of their Wilderness Trip program. Last August, after 46 years, he retired from that position. Between summers at Keewaydin, trips to the Hulbert Gatherings, the Toronto van committee, and trips to Ouje Bougoumou ('98, '99, '02, '04, '06), he works as a chauffeur and bus driver in Middlebury, Vermont. He has been the “MC” of the Paddlers' Gathering, Snow Walkers and Hikers Gatherings at Hulbert since they started in 1993.

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Chas Gill - Chas has been a Master Maine Guide for over 25 years. Most of his summers growing up were spent leading wilderness canoeing and hiking trips in the woods of Maine. Love of outdoor cooking especially the campfire reflector oven has always been a passion. Since the winter 2012 Chas have been the owner/manufacturer of the Sproul Baker reflector oven. Chas resides in Bowdoinham, Maine.

David Gilligan – David is a naturalist, a wilderness traveler and a writer. His explorations have taken him to mountains, deserts, rivers and coastlines across North America and overseas. He is a faculty member in Natural History and Ecology at Sterling College in Craftsbury, Vermont.

Aleks Gusev - Aleks started paddling late in life, but made up for it with a vengeance. Originally from Serbia, he splits his time between Toronto and Bell's Rapids. His life follows the changes in the season - famous for the ski trips he organizes in the winter, and northern rivers canoe and rafting trips in the summer. As the Editor of The Wilderness Canoe Associations' magazine, *Nastawgan*, he's totally plugged into the greatest paddling stories from close and afar. Aleks also contributes much time and energy to both Hulbert events: Snow Walkers Rendezvous and The Wilderness Paddlers Gathering.

Laco Kovac – Laco (pronounced “Latzo”) is a software engineer, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1992, where he had been hiking the mountains and exploring and mapping the caves of Slovakia. In Canada he's discovered the passion of canoeing and mapping remote routes together with Lynette. L&L's trip reports can be found at:
<http://sites.google.com/site/LandLtrips/> and <http://www.myccr.com>

Will Lange – Will is the guiding spirit of the Geriatric Adventure Society, which, among other things, has been paddling in the Arctic since 1989. He has a particular affinity for rivers of the Barren Lands beyond the tree line, and has bathed (often accidentally) in several.

Bruce Lindwall - Bruce has been leading outdoor activities for more than forty years. During that time he has been drenched by storms on the Moisie, beat the desert heat on the Escalante, avoided avalanches in the North Cascades, paddled with alligators in the Okefenokee, swatted bugs in Labrador, taught countless canoeing and kayaking lessons, slept on the ground more than 200 nights in one year, been skinny-dipping in the Arctic Ocean and returned regularly to the lakes and rivers of the Adirondacks. He is on the faculty of the Expedition Education Institute.

Zand B. Martin – Zand is an explorer, educator and writer based in Cambridge Massachusetts. He is a Course Leader and Senior Faculty Member at the National Outdoor Leadership School, and is a freelance writer and consultant. Between 2009 and 2014, he undertook five expeditions that together trace a 25,000-kilometer, 28 country, 548-day ring around the planet at about 45 degrees North. Three of these expeditions across North America, Europe and Mongolia/Siberia were by canoe. In 2011 he was named Adventurer of the Year by *Outside Magazine* and in 2013, the Polartec Challenge Grantee.

Alex Medicott - As an ER doc for 30 plus years, I've grabbed every chance to ply the trade outside the hospital. My first paying job in medicine was, admittedly, before graduation from school and as a medical counselor for a canoe camp in Senneterre, Quebec. Since then,

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there's been similar "work" (mostly play) in places ranging from Alaska's North Slope to the neighborhood pond hockey first aid station. It's been, as Robert Frost wrote, a good way to blend "vocation with avocation".

Dawn Morgan and Rick Morrill - Dawn and Rick operate a consulting business, Northern Forest Conservation Services LLC, based in northern Vermont, which provides comprehensive land management and conservation services to landowners, land trusts, and public agencies across the northern forest region. Working with maps and spatial data is a daily activity. Their digital tools and landscape reading skills are also readily used for trip planning. While not working, Dawn and Rick paddle, hike, and ski and have a shared affinity for exploring northern landscapes.

Eric Nuse - Eric has been fishing and canoeing since he could toddle up to a river. He started fly fishing with a self-made Herter's rod using his own flies. Since then he has been a game warden, outdoor teacher and wilderness trekker. **Fly Fishing For Fun and Food** will be a hands-on fly-casting class focusing on folks new to fly-fishing. After a brief demo we will see how the fur trout like pieces of yarn in the snowdrifts. Discussion of appropriate gear, flies and tactics will finish out the workshop. Dave Brown will demonstrate how to pull a fly out of your ear and other essential wilderness fishing skills.

Website address: sites.google.com/site/ericnuse/ericnuseandassociates

Fred (Skip) Pessl - Skip Pessl has not been in a canoe on a big northern river since his 1955 adventure on the Dubawnt. But his subsequent career as a Quaternary geologist has taken him to a variety of remote wilderness regions ranging from the Mesters Vig area of East Greenland and the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia, to interior Iceland and southeastern Alaska, and the less-wild, glaciated terrain of New England and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. After retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey in 1983, he began a second career as a tennis coach and teaching professional, retiring from that in 1998. He now lives with his wife Molly in Bellevue WA where he enjoys a vigorous grand-parenting life style, still active in Nordic skiing, sailing and competitive age-group tennis.

Bill Pollock – Bill is a Forest Engineer and owner of Tuckamor Trips. Solo tripping is the time when the river, the lake or just the wilderness is listening to you. If you listen back, it will talk to you.

Sylvain Tremblay -Sylvain is a biologist and an outdoor guide from Quebec. He is an enthusiastic voyageur and fly fisherman. He enjoys taking any opportunity to paddle and fish a river. When he works in the North he spends time in very comfortable accommodations and when he's on his own trips he enjoys a more simple, but still comfortable lifestyle.

Kate Weekes – Kate is a singer-songwriter who has spent the past 11 years living in the Yukon Territory, in Canada's far north. Kate's songs tell stories of her life as a dog musher and avid paddler, living in a little orange cabin on Squatter's Row, just outside of Whitehorse. She has just released her 4th album, 'Frost on Black Fur', and has toured extensively throughout Canada as well as China and Japan.