

**Presenters - Wilderness Paddlers Gathering**  
**Hulbert Outdoor Center**  
**March 10-12, 2017**

**Dave Brown, Committee Member** - Dave has been involved with organizing canoe trips for many decades. His workshop will address the various options for getting from home to the trip's start and from the finish back home.

**Geoffrey Burke, Committee Member** – Geoffrey Burke has been a builder of all wood boats for over 30 years and is an ardent lover of wilderness travel. He has had extensive experience in hand tool use, expedition canoeing, winter travel and bush craft.

**Tim Caverly** - Tim is a N.E. author and humorist who has published (7) books about our northern forest. The stories are based on his 32 years as a Maine ranger, 18 of which he served a supervisor of Maine's Allagash Wilderness Waterway. With his 'New England Reads' program Tim and his wife have presented 198 programs to over 6,500 students in Maine and N.H to encourage literacy and learning about our natural world. In addition during the last seven years the couple has presented to countless libraries, assisted living communities and veterans homes. <http://allagashtails.com> [tim@allagashtails.com](mailto:tim@allagashtails.com)

**Scott Ellis** - Scott Ellis is a professional outdoor enthusiast. He is a retail manager at L.L.Bean in West Lebanon NH and lives in White River Junction VT. Scott has a strong passion for outdoor films. He has a successful YouTube page called *Guide You Outdoors* and he has been a guest and a host of a NHPTV show called, *Windows to the Wild*. Scott's life goal is to entertain, inspire and educate people about getting outside.

**Bill Fitzhugh** - Bill is an archaeologist/anthropologist who has spent much of his life researching and working in Arctic and Subarctic regions of North America and Eurasia. Having conducted archaeological projects in Labrador, Baffin Island, Arctic Russia, and Mongolia, he is an expert on northern peoples, cultures, and environments. His career as a Smithsonian curator and director of its Arctic Studies Center has included production of major books and exhibitions on Alaskan Eskimos, North Pacific cultures, Ainu, Vikings, Genghis Khan, and the Arctic 'unicorn'—the Narwhal.

**Seth Gibson, Committee Member/MC** - Seth started leading wilderness trips for Keewaydin Camp in 1967 in the Mistissini Lake region of Quebec and on the George River, and went on to become the Coordinator of their Wilderness Trip program. Last August he completed his 50<sup>th</sup> year at Keewaydin. 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. He has been the "MC" of the Paddlers, Snow Walkers and Hikers Gatherings at Hulbert since they started in 1993.

**David Gilligan** - David is a professor at Sterling College. He teaches natural history and ecology courses and leads wilderness expeditionary programs in places such as Maritime Coast, Newfoundland, the Sierra Nevada and the American Southwest. He also enjoys writing books, carving knife handles, making music and meditating by the wood stove.

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**Aleks Gusev, Committee Member** - Originally from Serbia, Aleks was introduced to paddling in mid-life and took such delight in this new experience he pursued it with a vengeance. Aleks is a man of all seasons – famous for the epic ski trips he organizes in winter and then switching gear and paddling or rafting northern rivers throughout the summer. Aleks inspires the paddling community through his volunteer efforts as Past Chair of the Wilderness Canoe Association, current Director of the Paddler Co-Op, Wilderness & Canoe Symposium and as the current Editor of *Nastawgan*. A competent chef with a distinctly Serbian flair, Aleks can silence his paddle-mates by serving his specialty, cevapcici, roasted over an open fire.

**Tracy Hoeger** - I have loved being on the water and in a canoe since before I could hold a paddle and I have been actively involved in canoe trips for over 20 years. Through both personal trips and through working with Keewaydin I have had the opportunity to explore incredible places spanning Ontario, Quebec and Labrador and ranging from length between 3 to 49 days. The years of 6 and 7 week long trips with teenage girls were amazing, however I have spent the last 5 years on trip with adults and it is this experience that I'd like to share with you during this talk.

**Ann Ingerson, Committee Member** - Ann has improvised lots of equipment for outdoor trips – including a homemade backpack, wall tent, and canoe spray cover – using an ancient Singer sewing machine. Jane Barron will provide the real equipment-construction know-how for this workshop. Together we will provide some tips on making your own spray cover for paddling on big water or just keeping your gear dry on a rainy day.

**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.

**Ross Morgan** - Ross is a woodlot forester working for private woodland owners in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. He learned to play with axes at an early age, and has developed an affection for axes that is contagious. In his garage he keeps 76 axes, each in its own cubical, cared for daily. Some have handmade handles and others are in waiting.

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**David Pelly** – David first went north in 1977 to paddle the Back River and the north has been central to his life ever since. After a subsequent 52-day canoe trip on the Kazan River in 1982, he landed in Baker Lake, and stayed. That hamlet provided his introduction to and immersion in Inuit culture. For more than 30 years he lived, travelled and worked across what is now Nunavut. As a writer, David's work has been largely based on Inuit traditional knowledge he collected over that time. He has published eight books and countless articles about the North, the land, its history, and its people. He has worked in the field with biologists and archaeologists, developed and written documentary films, served as co-curator of Inuit art exhibitions, and assisted with numerous community cultural projects across Nunavut. All the while continuing his own adventures, with several dozen northern expeditions, travelling by canoe, with family and friends, and by dog team with Inuit friends for thousands of miles in the Arctic wilderness. [www.davidpelly.com](http://www.davidpelly.com)

**Laurie Pelly** -Laurie's attachment to Canada's North began in 1989 with a canoe trip through the central barrenlands' Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. This northern exposure led to Laurie's becoming an Arctic canoeing enthusiast and, indirectly, to switching careers from corporate lawyer in New York City to legal counsel for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the non-profit organization which represents the Inuit of Nunavut. Since 1994, Laurie's work at NTI has encompassed a wide range of issues as she represents the Inuit at the international, federal, territorial and local levels. Laurie and David met on the banks of the Thelon River, lived in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut from 1995 to 2002, and now reside in a log cabin in the Quebec woods north of Ottawa, but continue to travel regularly in the North.

**Noah Pollock** - Noah hails from Sharon, Vermont and has degrees in Natural Resources from Cornell University and the University of Vermont. Since 2007, on behalf of the Vermont River Conservancy and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Noah has been working on water trail projects throughout northern New York and New England (including the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail, and Lamoille River Paddlers Trail), helping facilitate land conservation, public access protection, and stewardship efforts. For his master's degree program, Noah studied the economic impact of paddler tourism and recreation along the waterways that make up the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

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**Jake Risch** - Jake Risch is a whitewater paddler and backcountry skier from North Conway, New Hampshire. He's been paddling for 18 years on five continents, including trips to Turkey, Nepal, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway and the Alps. Jake is a founding member and vice president of the White Mountain Swiftwater Rescue Team and a charter lifetime member and president of the Friends of Tuckerman Ravine. Jake was in Peru volunteering as a guide on the Paddling with Purpose film project. The project aims to engage Peruvian citizens to stand up and demand protection for the Marañon River, the last free-flowing tributary of the Amazon River. For more information on the project, visit [www.paddlingwithpurpose.com](http://www.paddlingwithpurpose.com) and find the project on Facebook.

**Al Stirt, Committee Member** - Al Stirt and **Wendy Scott, Committee Member** and friends have been wandering, somewhat aimlessly, over the Quebec/Labrador landscape since the late 1970's. Al particularly loves the open, nearly treeless areas near the Quebec/Labrador border, but often finds himself in the middle of alder thickets. He has been a woodturner for over 40 years and has travelled far and wide teaching and giving turning demonstrations. His work is included in many museum collections, including the Smithsonian and the Victoria and Albert Museum. You can find information and photos from both aspects of his life at: [www.alstirt.com](http://www.alstirt.com)

**Leah Titcomb, Committee Member** - Leah is a registered Maine Guide, Naturalist, Educator and Outdoor Yoga Instructor who has been guiding professionally since 2003. Founder of Forever Wild Yoga, she runs outdoor yoga retreats in Maine, combining canoeing, hiking and yoga. She is most passionate about helping people connect with the outdoors and adventuring into wild places.

**Melanie Whitham** – Melanie's biggest passion, next to teaching young people, is wilderness canoe camping. On a 16-day wilderness paddle through the Canadian forest at 21 years old, Melanie discovered that she was capable of much more than she had imagined. It is that place she is passionate in helping young people discover within themselves through building connection and community in the wild. She co-founded Play in the Wild! with her dear friend and colleague, Catherine Cadden, over 10 years ago bringing their passions for Mindfulness, Non-Violence, Non-Violent Communication and a deep connection with the natural world together in service of youth, their families and their communities. To learn more about our work at Play in the Wild! , visit [playinthewild.org](http://playinthewild.org).