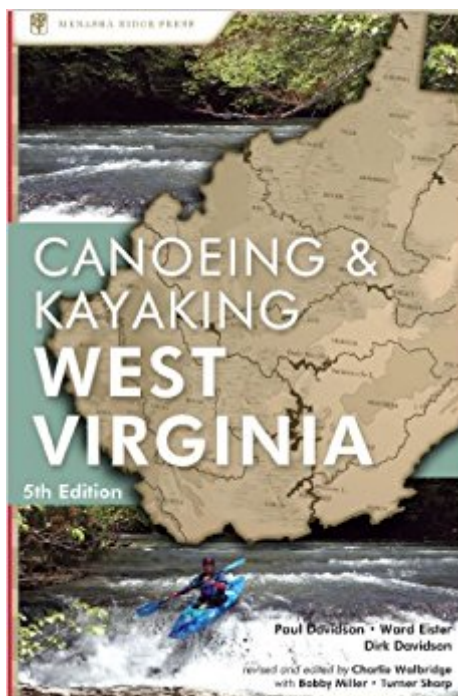


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# A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide To West Virginia, 5th



## Synopsis

Began as a collective effort by members of the West Virginia Wildwater Association in 1965, Wildwater West Virginia emerged as the preeminent guide to whitewater in West Virginia. Now part of a new series and a new name to boot, A Canoeing Guide to West Virginia continues this legacy, guiding boaters of all abilities to over 120 of West Virginia's rivers, creeks and streams. The result of combined knowledge of hundreds of paddlers, this book gives paddlers all the information they need to paddle rivers safely and confidently: At a glance information helps boaters pick rivers to match their ability and current weather conditions, while river descriptions, gauge and shuttle route information provide additional critical information. More than an encyclopedia of mountain rivers and hydrologic data, Whitewater West Virginia is also a collection of experiences and an introduction to some of the most amazing geography in the east. Destined to ride in the dry bags and glove compartments of paddlers nationwide, this book continues to set the standard for all paddling guidebooks. Some of the rivers profiled include: Gauley River, North Branch of the Potomac, New River, Cheat River, Tygart River, Waites Run, Red Run, Roaring Creek, and Keeney Creek.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the past 30 years, dog-eared copies of Wildwater West Virginia have found permanent homes in the glove boxes and bookshelves of serious whitewater paddlers. While this classic guide now sports a new look and a new title, you'll find the same high-caliber advice that thousands of paddlers

have relied on while paddling the streams and rivers of the Mountain State. Inside are updated descriptions of all the classic rivers, including the Gauley, the New, and the Meadow, as well as exciting new reports of today's steep creek runs. Each river description highlights critical information about difficulty, steepness, and scenery, as well as vital gauge and shuttle information. Whether you're an experienced paddler or are just starting out, you'll want to grab a copy or two of *A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to West Virginia* - the definitive guide to whitewater in West Virginia.

Beginning his paddling career in the 60's while in college, Charlie Walbridge has made West Virginia his second home during the paddling season. The remaining months he can be found in Penllyn, Pennsylvania.

I just recently discovered this book when a friend loaned it to me, and I can't wait to order my copy. This is a nice reference book that will stay on my coffee table from April to September. I do a lot of canoeing/fishing on the rivers in the summer, and this book has already led me to a lot of great floats that I didn't know about, even though I'm a native West Virginian. It's not going to tell you what to expect around every bend, but it does list the more notable areas of each river, including the dangers and problems you may encounter. The first section of the book has basic information on canoeing and kayaking, terms and definitions, dealing with locals, phone numbers and other sources of information, and more (Much of this is written in a humorous way, reminding me somewhat of Pat McManus). The book then lists each river basin, and after a short description of the area and a little history, it breaks it up into sections. The layout for each section is as follows:

1. **TABLE** - Contains capacities and ratings of the section including rapid classes, river gradient, water volume, scenery rating, time of trip, and river level.
2. **MAPS** - List of the names of the USGS maps and county maps that cover the section area.
3. **DESCRIPTION** - Describes the river, the scenery, and any other noteworthy aspects of the trip.
4. **DIFFICULTIES** - Notes any dangerous areas or other problems you may encounter along the way.
5. **SHUTTLE** - Suggests put-in and take-out spots or if there are any shuttle services provided.
6. **GAUGE** - Notes locations of river level gauges, phone numbers to call for river level information, or just basic references to gauge the level of the river for navigability. (I especially like this. Many times it goes something like, "If there are three stones showing on the so-and-so bridge, you should have no problems from point A to point B." This is nice since so many of our rivers have isolated sections that are nearly impossible to scout.)

If you live in West Virginia and want to canoe or kayak, or if you are planning a trip here for some river sports, this book is a great buy for the money.

In the description of "A C+K Guide to WV, 5th ed.", it notes that 'many a copy of former editions spent significant amounts of time in the glove boxes of WV paddler's vehicles'. Mine certainly did. On my bookshelves, I have two copies of the 1st edition that did just that. In their heyday, they were planning documents, starting points, where the hell are we shuttle directions, warnings, inspirations and diaries. Their physical condition suffered for their service, but both have survived. I moved to West Virginia in 1973 to attend WVU. Being an avid canoeist since my Boy Scout days, I was easily smitten by the added versatility of the kayak in running whitewater. So, through the WVU Outings Club, I hooked up with a couple of kayakers, or rather, whitewater fanatics. This was 'the book'. The first edition, titled "Wildwater West Virginia" was written by Paul Davidson and Bob Burrell. Not only did they write the guide, but they did much of the research for the information it contained. No one was ever surprised to find one or both on the water, sometimes miles away from a road or access point. In winter, one would show up at our pool sessions at the WVU natatorium, where we duct taped split tennis balls to the ends our kayaks and choked on the chlorinated water, happily eskimo rolling. Long story short, these guys lived what they wrote. Their descriptions were right on. The writing was unabashed, somewhat conspiratorial, and downright clever and funny at times. While the book never made any sales records, since back in the seventy's the whitewater kayaking world was a small one, it was a treasure to any who wished to explore the incredible variety of whitewater in West Virginia. Now, over thirty years later, the guide is in its fifth edition. It is almost exactly twice as thick as the first edition, a testament to the growth of the sport and the constantly improving skill levels of its adherents. The authors; Paul Davidson, Ward Eister, Dirk Davidson all have long and impressive whitewater resumes, as does editor Charlie Walbridge. Bob Burrell is no longer listed as an author, although his presence is still there. Many of the opening descriptions, worth the price of the guide alone, were in some part his work. Many of those overviews in the 5th edition are edits of those found in the original edition. He is also quoted in several sections. The book covers all of the major watersheds found in the state and some classics, like the Yough in PA and the Savage in MD. In addition, the focus has expanded. The 5th edition includes trip suitable for families in open boats on one hand and an extensive list of eye popper steep creeks on the other. It provides classes of rapids encountered, length of trip, gauge locations, a scenery rating along with a solitude rating. Shuttle directions are provided as is a somewhat generalized description of the run. In fairness, if the run descriptions were provided in more detail, some of the adventure of the trip would be lacking, no to mention the size of the book doubling again. Each description clearly identifies DIFFICULTIES in its own section. Always comforting to know ahead of time that that 30 foot Class 6

waterfall has a pathway around it on river left. As in the first edition, the writing is clear, concise and above all, entertaining. I highly recommend the book for anyone with an interest in West Virginia Rivers. One need not necessarily be interested solely with the whitewater or canoeing aspect of the book, since the read is far more interesting than just a discussion of water running downhill over rocks. The authors have such a connection with place, so that a reader feels that s\he knows the history of the rivers as well. With the advent of the most destructive of mining techniques available, mountain top removal, the book may also prove its value as a 'history' of West Virginia's lovely mountain waters.

This is top notch. I especially like the descriptions on how to get to the put-ins. Just get two copies now: one for the car and one for the house in case the first gets lost. There is a section in the index where the rivers are sorted by difficulty. This is really nice for the beginner who wants to "work his way up".

Alot of white water. Great book

Lot's of good info here.

The book was in great condition, I do wish that somehow there was more of a description on the Cheat River, but I guess since this river has around 38 rivers it is hard to do, but the book seemed to cover the big rapids on this river.

Good book.

The kindle version has all the maps and diagrams of the hard copy. excellent resource.

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