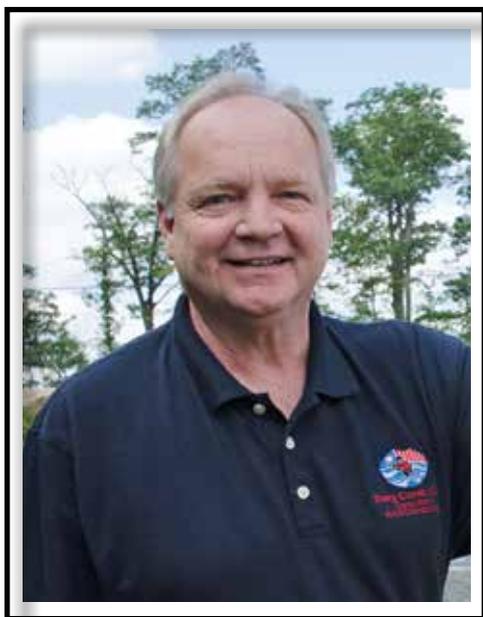


Profiles in Adventure

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.” — Benjamin Franklin

As passionate practitioners of the skills they teach, the instructors at Garrett College's Adventuresports Institute (ASI) serve as guides and mentors, engaging and challenging students to become leaders and professionals in the growing field of outdoor recreation. Within this realm, students can choose to become instructors, competitive athletes, coaches, educators, naturalists, therapists, business owners or even artists. Students learn theory and business principles along with fieldwork to hone their skills in their chosen adventure sport(s). Regardless of their chosen focus, students can expect a hands-on education from every one of their ASI instructors.

Written by: **Sara Mullins**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**



Mike Logsdon

The Adventuresports Institute owes its existence in large part to an idea conceived by its executive director, Mike Logsdon. A native of Philippi, West Virginia, Mike developed a long-term love of the outdoors and was active in Boy Scouts. For 20 years, he was a camp counselor, responsible for waterfront duties. Along the way he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from West Virginia University.

“The camp's owner taught at Garrett College, which got me thinking that I liked teaching,” Mike says. So he applied to the University of Maryland's doctoral program in physics and was accepted. A job opening to teach physics that next year at Garrett College enticed him to leave the program.

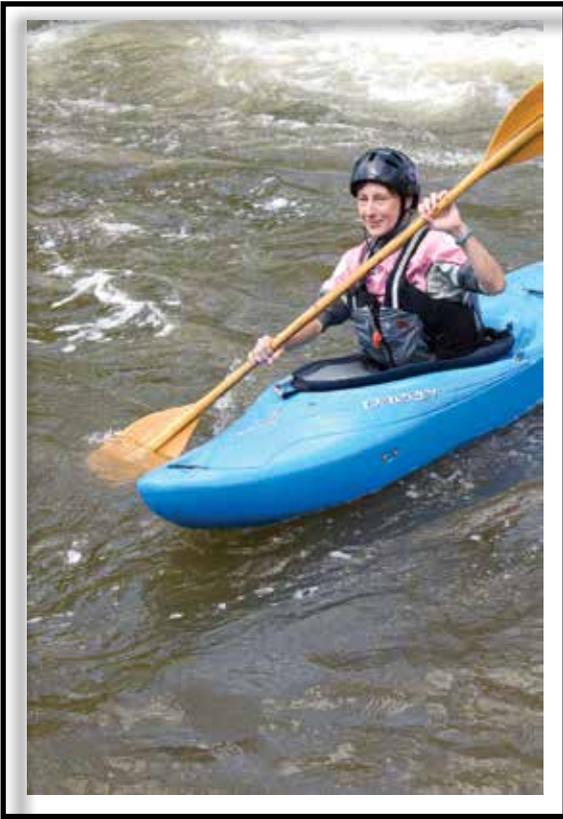
In 1984, Mike was teaching physics and serving as director of Arts and Sciences at Garrett College. In his spare time, he became interested in paddle sports and paddling boats of all kinds: kayaks, open canoes, rafts, duckies and whitewater. Eventually he began working as a weekend guide on the Cheat River.

“Being in the river was like standing in a physics experiment,” he says, commenting on what he came to see as a connection between whitewater and physics. He was leading a group of guests through Coliseum Rapids on the Cheat when it occurred to him that a college degree would be useful to teach whitewater and other adventure sports skills, as well as the ability to manage a company's operations and design programming. And what better place than Garrett College, fortuitously near an abundance of locations for a variety of outdoor adventure activities?

“It wasn't a slam dunk in the beginning,” he says, referring to his Adventure Sports Management proposal and the challenge presented by a general statewide moratorium on new college programs. But it was the only new program approved in 1992, likely given a boost by the success of the 1989 Whitewater Championships, 1992 Olympic Trials, both held on the nearby Savage River, and the support of then governor William Donald Schaefer, who understood the importance of the development of a recreation industry in western Maryland.

“I like the role of administrator,” he says. Since 2012, Mike has also served as acting executive director at the Adventure Sports Center International (ASCI). He serves on the boards of Garrett Trails, 4-H Educational Center and Hickory Environmental Education Center. He also teaches a series of courses in whitewater rafting.

In his spare time, he keeps busy with outdoor activities. As a member of the WISP Ski Patrol, he works with mountain travel and rescue training. During soccer season, he serves as a referee at high school and college games. At home, he enjoys organic gardening on his 17-acre property. The grass doesn't grow under Mike's busy feet.



Therese (Terry) Peterson

“I always wanted to teach at the college level,” says Terry Peterson, a full-time professor who also serves as Coordinator of Paddle Sports and Snow Sports. Besides instructing students in whitewater and sea kayaking, plus cross-country and telemark skiing, she teaches courses in adventure sports theory with a focus on leadership and group dynamics.

In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, kayaking, rafting, and skiing downhill, cross-country and telemark. “These are my passions,” she says.

As one of six athletic children with a dad in the Air Force, Terry moved frequently with her family. In high school she was active in field hockey and track. While attending James Madison University to pursue a degree in sports management, she discovered the joys of cycling and some new friends from West Virginia. From them, she learned about the Whitegrass Ski Touring Center in the Canaan Valley area. She came to visit and stayed on as a cook. “Their chili recipe is mine,” she says. She started doing adventure sports and learning how to cross-country and telemark ski.

“I spent ten years pursuing my passions” Terry says, reminiscing about her time working as a river guide

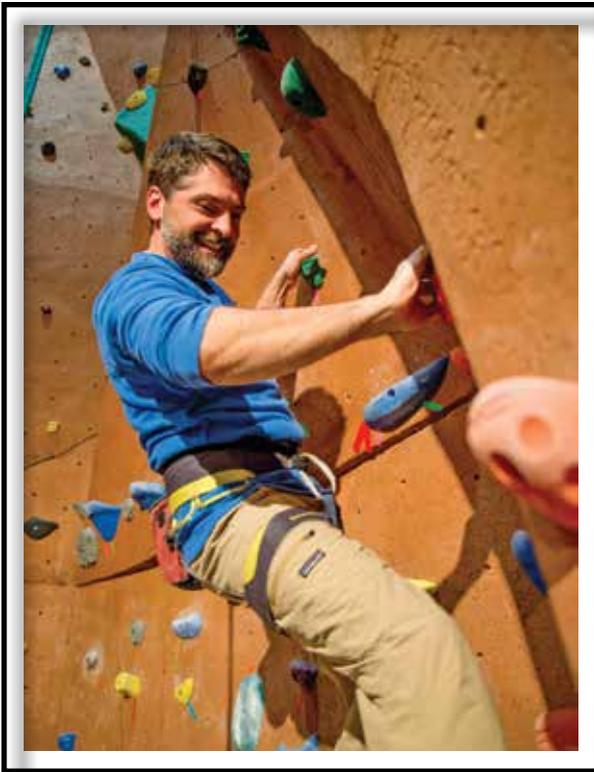
on the Upper Youghiogeny, New, and Gauley Rivers, her 5-years at the Montgomery County Department of Therapeutic Recreation, and a stint as Director of Summer Adventure Camp at the Norwood School in Potomac, MD. The lure of the Upper Yough compelled her to settle nearby in 1984. To supplement her income as a river guide, she began a photography and sewing business.

Along the way she met a fellow paddler and river guide – Mike Logsdon – and soon began working with the ASI as an adjunct professor. By 2002, she earned a master’s degree in Recreation Resource Management and Educational Psychology from West Virginia University, and began teaching fulltime at ASI in 2003. During her studies, she conducted some research concerning safety issues on the Lower Yough, where 17 people had died at Dimple Rock. Some of Terry’s research and input were incorporated into Ohiopyle Park’s safety and risk management plan.

In teaching theory classes, Terry’s goal is to provide students with an opportunity to teach, moving them from “consumers to leaders” by offering instructor-level courses that combine teaching methodology from adventure sports certification bodies with curriculum design. The result: lesson plans that students can use.

“Here’s what defines me,” Terry says. “I really like to help people overcome their fears. Students enjoy this, too. I like to focus on the risk management aspect. Everyone has some fears. We must understand them.”





Andrew (Andy) Hershey

The outdoors has been Andy Hershey's life-long passion. A native of Lancaster County, Pa., Andy is the ASI Coordinator of Climbing and Back Country Living. His teaching responsibilities range from field-based classes in rock and ice climbing, backpacking and outdoor survival, to classroom courses in theory, business and job search skills.

"I grew up in an outdoorsy family," Andy says. "We had a cabin, where I enjoyed hunting and fishing."

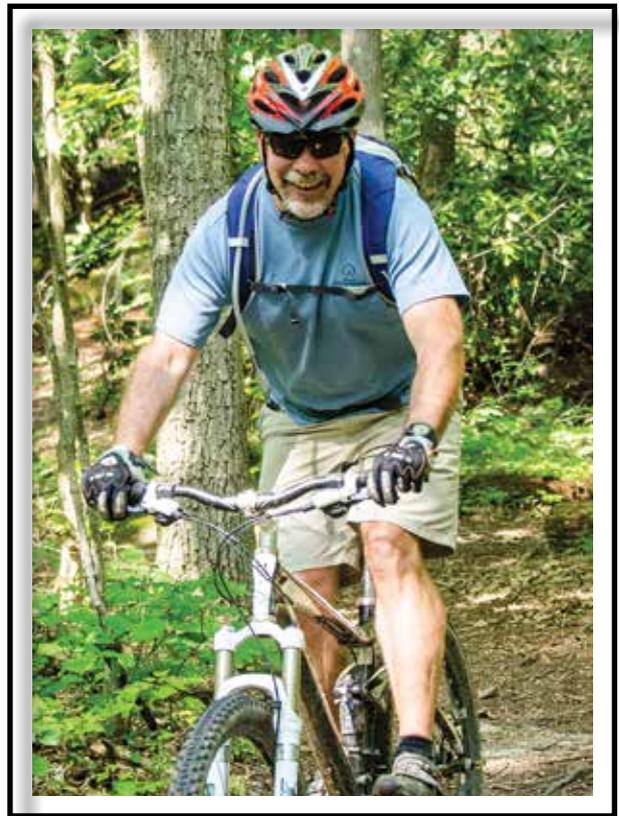
After beginning studies in environmental biology at Kutztown State University, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in Park and Resource Management at Slippery Rock University. While there, he became head of the Outdoor Club and worked summers as an intern Backcountry Ranger at Yosemite National Park, assisting with law enforcement, and search and rescue. He was awarded an assistantship at Slippery Rock to pursue a master's degree in Sports Management.

Andy then worked as Program Coordinator and Adventure Specialist with youth-at-risk at the Yellow Breeches Education Center. He spotted an ad from ASI seeking a full-time professor with expertise in climbing and risk management and applied for the position. He and his family moved to Garrett County, where he joined the ASI faculty in 2005.

Andy soon discovered a wealth of climbing opportunities in nearby West Virginia, and has found opportunities to

offer guidance and instruction on weekends and during the summer. He has been a guide and instructor with Seneca Rocks Mountain Guides since 2007. In 2010, he opened Coopers Rock Climbing Guides to provide rock climbing and other backcountry adventures near Morgantown, W.Va. The company holds an annual Rock Climb-A-Thon to benefit a different charity each year. This year's benefit will help Paradox Sports, which teaches adaptive climbing for the disabled, and the Coopers Rock Foundation.

Amidst all of his activities, Andy enjoys downtime with his family. Not surprisingly, he and his wife spend a lot of time outdoors with their two children. Andy says he has a passion for reading but admits he has little time to indulge. He's too busy outside.



Scott Richardson

After working for 18 years in a Gaithersburg retirement community, Scott Richardson decided it was time for a change. He moved to Garrett County, where he hoped to put his healthcare experience and master's degree in gerontology to different use by starting a small business with seniors and enrolled in the Adventure Sports program in Fall 2001 at Garrett College.

"I ended up working with the TAY (Transitional Age Youth) Program instead," he says, referring to ASI's youth

mentoring program for Garrett County 8th graders. Besides coordinating the TAY Program, Scott manages ASI's Adventuresports Equipment Center (AEC), teaches mountain biking and fills in with other courses as needed. He is a member of the Association of Experiential Education and Professional Ski Instructors Association.

"The equipment must be kept up to date," Scott says of AEC's inventory. To stay current with improvements in equipment technology and develop ongoing relationships with vendors, he attends selected retail shows. The AEC allows students, faculty and staff to rent equipment for classes, outings or personal use, and offers students an opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of running a rental operation that supports field experiences.

Describing himself as an avid road and mountain biker, Scott also enjoys downhill and cross-country skiing when he's not busy at ASI. Other interests include travel and cutting wood on his 20-acre property a half mile from the Youghiogheny River. He shares his home with one dog and four cats that "tolerate each other."



Mike Malfaro (left) with student, Callan Hower.
Photo by Garrett Heydt



Mike Malfaro

"I found out about the Adventuresports Institute through Backpacker Magazine and came to Garrett County to check it out," says Mike Malfaro, now an adjunct instructor and field coordinator at ASI. "I fell in love with the area and the program."

While growing up in the Reading/Pottstown area of Pennsylvania, Mike attended outdoor-based summer camp with friends and developed a lifelong interest in outdoor activities. Before settling in Garrett County, he worked at the Adirondack Loj near Heart Lake, New York, where his duties ranged from staffing the High Peaks Information Center to driving horse-drawn carriages.

Mike now works in several capacities at ASI. His teaching duties include courses in back country living skills, white-water canoeing and rafting, and a foundation class in navigation, reading maps, and "leave no trace" procedures. His experience working with and mentoring young people prepared him for his current field coordinator position with the TAY program. "TAY builds confidence and character," he says. "We see the change." Recently he began working as a program specialist with Garrett College's new Center for Adventure and Experiential Learning (CAEL), a program offering adventure-based educational, team-building and personal enrichment programs to individuals and groups.

"I had the fever," Mike says, describing his early attraction to adventure sports. Apparently he still does. Depending on the season, he's a guide with Precision Rafting in Friendsville and a ski instructor at the Wisp Resort.

A Unique Collaboration Between Garrett College and Frostburg State University

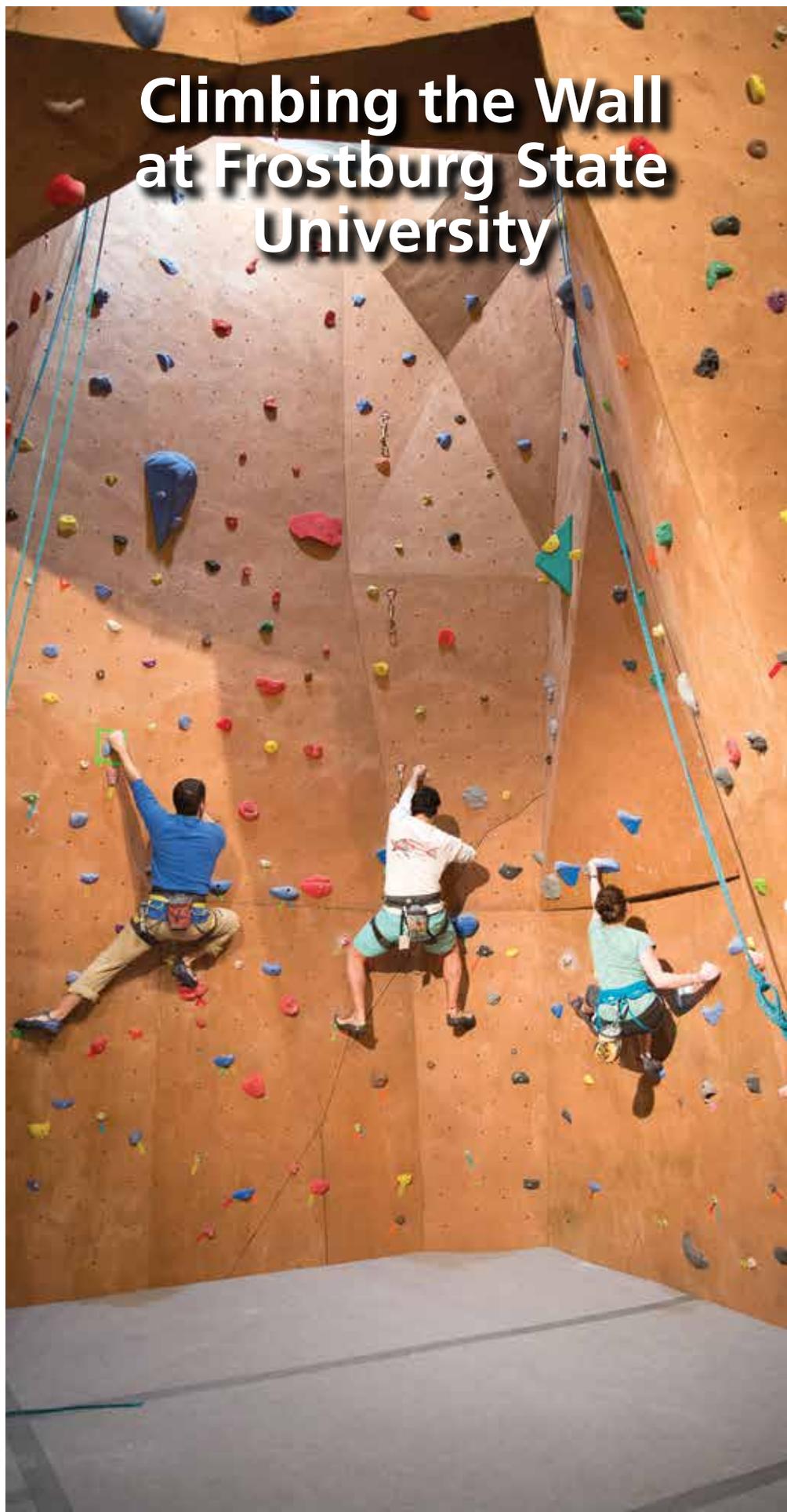
The climbing wall inside room 170 of Frostburg State University's Cordts Physical Education Center may be one of the largest pieces of instructional equipment on campus. The 35 ft. by 50 ft. wall offers rock climbing students the opportunity to learn basic and more advanced skills in a controlled environment.

"The climbing wall is Frostburg State University's contribution to Garrett College," says Dr. Robert Kauffman, professor in the University's Department of Recreation and Parks Management. A unique collaboration between the two institutions facilitates a smooth transition for Adventure Sports Institute (ASI) students to Frostburg State's bachelor's degree program in Recreation with a Concentration in Adventure Sports. Frostburg State students can transfer their general education classes to Garrett College, enabling them to earn an AAS degree in Adventure Sports Management.

Thanks to the agreement between the two institutions, ASI rock climbing instructor Andy Hershey can use Frostburg State's state-of-the-art rock climbing facility to teach a variety of climbing and rescue techniques.

"This model has not been adopted anywhere else," says Kauffman. "Collaboration conserves resources. The climbing wall is a metaphor for the program."

Climbing the Wall at Frostburg State University



What a Few Adventuresports Institute Graduates Have to Say

The Professor

After coaching basketball for 20 years, Lynne Fitzgerald was ready for a change. She came to ASI with a bachelor's degree in physical education and coaching from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, a master's degree in education from Northeastern State University, and her two decades of coaching experience. "I took every class I could and focused on rock climbing," she says. She graduated from ASI in 2010. Now an assistant professor at Montana State University in Billings, she also is the program coordinator for the University's Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program.

"I highly value the education I received at ASI," she says. "The instructors were great role models, very inspiring. Besides hard skills [in adventure sports], I developed leadership skills. I love what I'm doing."

The Recreation Director

Doug Carty attributes his successful 13-year tenure as director of Campus Recreation and Pre-Orientation Wilderness Camping at New Hampshire's Franklin-Pierce University to ASI. After stints as an outdoor retailer, Jeep tour guide, and restaurant manager, Doug enrolled in ASI and graduated at age 27. While working full-time in campus recreation at Franklin-Pierce, he managed to complete a B.S. in general studies in 2006. He developed a popular Adventure Recreation program, drawing from his expertise in rock climbing, whitewater kayaking, mountain biking, bicycle mechanics, backcountry living skills and wilderness first aid.

"I'm not sure I'd be here if I hadn't gone to ASI," he says. "ASI built my confidence and gave me the ability to jump into my current position.

I started this program based on what I learned at ASI. The reward is the students' reaction."

The Entrepreneur

Shanna Powell has found a way to combine her interests in bikes and business as founder and owner of the Endless Bike Company in Asheville, NC. At ASI she focused on business and kayaking. She went on to earn a B.S. in Recreation and Parks Management from Frostburg State University with an emphasis on adventure sports. Endless Bikes makes and sells single speed drive-train parts for bicycles. One of its most popular items are the Kick-Ass Cogs. She also works as the accounts and finance manager at Industry Nine, LLC, an Asheville company that makes bicycle wheels. When she's not working with the business of bicycles, Shanna enjoys kayaking, climbing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding – and riding bicycles.

"ASI helped me with so many things, especially with building my confidence in the outdoors," she says. "It helped me with promoting cycling, and with my ability to communicate, and to be organized and prepared."

The Freelance Guide and Instructor

Most people dream of doing what they love for a living. Ben Morton lives that dream as a freelance paddling guide, kayaking instructor, and paddlesports athlete. A 2007 ASI graduate, he calls Jackson, Wyoming home when he's not traveling around the country or overseas to work with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Esprit Whitewater in Costa Rica, and Canoe Kayak and Paddle Company (CKAPCO) in Washington, D.C.

Ben's commitment to his own professional development has resulted in his earning multiple professional certifications, including Leave No Trace, Wilderness First Responder and a variety of American Canoe Association (ACA) instructor/trainer skills ranging from Levels 3 through 5. His passion for sharing his expertise in paddlesports with others has not gone unnoticed. Ben was recently honored with the prestigious 2013 American Canoe Association Excellence in Instruction Award.

