

# BMO Newsletter: Fall 2017

Blue Mountain Outfitters

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Once again, summer passed in a blur, and soon the frost will be on the pumpkins. What does this mean for paddlers? Invigorating temperatures, cozy campfires, and hopefully beautiful autumn leaves. So don't put those boats away yet!



## Speaking of Fall...

With cooler temperatures comes a reminder to dress for conditions, which for the most part means no cotton. Of any kind. This includes traditional sweatshirts & hoodies, blue jeans, cotton socks and underwear; even Grandpa's good ol' cotton long johns. If you are

into other outdoor sports (biking, hiking, running, cross country skiing, etc.) you probably already have a collection of layering pieces that will work fine for paddling. If not, we're stocked and ready to help.

Probably the most versatile piece of paddling clothing is the paddling jacket. Unlike most hiking jackets, they won't include pit zips or other venting openings that would allow water to get into the jacket easily, and most also feature much tighter seals at the neck and wrists for the same reason. Hard core whitewater paddlers and cool weather fishermen may opt for a dry top instead, or even a dry suit. Don't forget that it's still important to wear the correct layers UNDER the dry top, suit, or paddling jacket, i.e. synthetic fleece, silk, wool...almost anything BUT cotton.

By the way, although many hunters think they're good because they have tough, warm hunting clothes that are great for tracking that big buck through the snow, they're usually NOT suitable for paddling. We've seen all too many paddlers (waterfowl hunters are a prime example) become human anchors in the event of an upset due to the amount of water taken on by clothing. And again, much of this clothing is made of cotton. (Rescue personnel didn't coin the term "cotton cadavers" for nothing.)

Also, a reminder that as of November 1st (and continuing through April 30th) PFD's (life vests/jackets) must be WORN, not just carried on the boat.

## Calling all (Size 7) Feet!

Just went through our sale carts and found that we have a large number of size 7 watersports shoes, booties, etc. SO, if you're a men's size 7 (or women's size 8) come on in and check 'em out. Some other sizes available also, although they tend to run either very large (think Yeti) or very small (Thumbelina).

Even if we don't have your size in our marked-down section, we do have a good assortment of river shoes and boots to keep you warm (and sometimes even dry!) in cooler weather. Warm, dry feet are happy feet!

## A Priceless Gift

Some of you may have had the pleasure of paddling with, or helping out Bill Butler, coordinator for the Susquehanna Valley chapter of Team River Runner. Bill's been helping his niece Nick outfit an open whitewater canoe (yay, new blood in OC!), so she's been a familiar face here at BMO lately.

A little while ago Bill dropped off a beautiful hand crafted canoe paddle that Nick made out of American Sweet Cherry from her grandfather's barn, and said she wanted us to have. Wow! The paddle is almost too pretty to use (but we promised we would someday!) For now it's found a special place of honor in Doug's treasured birch bark canoe. Someday both canoe and paddle will see the water; in the meantime, thank you Nick!

If you aren't familiar with Team River Runner, check out their website, <http://www.TeamRiverRunner.org>; this organization is awesome, and is always looking for volunteers to help out with their programs. (We've been told by many of those who have volunteered that it was just as rewarding for them as it was for the people they were helping!)

## Little Giants

Last year Native Watercraft brought out a kayak called the Titan Propel 13.5 that was so big it almost reached Jon Boat proportions. This year they're adding two smaller versions, a 10.5' and 12' model. Since "Titan" is described by Webster as "one gigantic in size or power", would these be the little giants? Call it what you may, they offer lots of stability, tons of places to put fishing gear, and now small enough to carry in the back of the ol' pickup truck.



*Titan Propel 10.5*



*Nick's Paddle (on the right); Doug's Boat*

## Northstar B17

In addition to the limited edition Anniversary Canoes featured in our earlier news flash, Northstar is rounding out their line this year with the B(as in Bell?)17, a 17' (duh!) wilderness tripping canoe that can best be described as an updated Bell Alaskan, one of our favorites from the Bell era. (We highly recommend getting it in the IXP layup with inlaid skid plates to take full advantage of what this canoe is capable of.)



*Here's a teaser, stop in soon to see the whole thing!*

## Revised Visions and Reimagined Tsunami's

Current Designs and Wilderness Systems are both tweaking their light touring lines this year with updated Visions and Tsunami's. Both address that niche between recreational and full on touring kayaks, with lots of comfort to boot. Hard to imagine either of these boats getting any better, but they've both managed to do so. Stop by soon to check them out!



*Wilderness Systems  
Tsunami 145*

## T-Formex is Here...Really!

Although we've yet to see any Esquif T-Formex boats in our shop, we HAVE finally received our first shipment of Wenonah's canoes. They appear to be the closest thing to Royalex we've seen yet; check out the photo below. (Or better yet, come in and see for yourself!)



*Royalex versus  
T-Formex*

## NuCanoe Flint

NuCanoe is tapping into the survivalist in all of us (who doesn't like playing with fire starters?) with their new kayak for 2018, the Flint. Featuring the open deck platform common to all their boats, the Flint is filling that niche length (11'3") missing so far in their fleet, with lots of gear storage options. Estimated at 68 lbs. it won't break your back, and at \$999, it won't break the bank either! Coming to BMO in January!



*NuCanoe Flint*

## Solar Eclipse

This summer we had the rare opportunity to see a total solar eclipse here in the United States. Recently retired employee Kris and his wife Guni chased the sun to Idaho to catch the “path of totality”, while Tim opted to paddle the Chattooga and stop along the river with about 50 other boaters to “totally” experience it as well. The rest of us? Mary and friends paddled the Susquehanna and got the “Chiquita Banana” partial version, Sarah watched the same from home wearing silly glasses, and Doug & Greg also donned silly glasses to watch from the BMO deck (with the added advantage of watching TV coverage of the “total” total eclipse).

So what do we do with millions of silly eclipse glasses? Save ‘em for 2024! (See you on the bright side of the moon.)



## Wilderness Systems’ Kayak Crate

Move over milk crate; Wilderness Systems has brought us the deluxe model. Although designed to fit their boats (of course) this is proving to be popular with other boat owners as well. And no wonder; with its large main compartment, 4 rod holders, additional storage in the secondary lid, removable dividers for organization, and bombproof construction, it’s clearly a winner. And, it comes assembled!

## Remix XP Bulkhead Upgrade Kits

Liquid Logic’s Remix XP 9 & 10 have been proven sellers for us since they entered the crossover scene, with folks especially liking the comfortable “bad ass” outfitting and optional high seatback. This year they’ve addressed a wish some paddlers had by offering a bulkhead upgrade kit to replace the standard foot peg bracing system, in stock now at BMO. (Just keep in mind that it’s a lot harder to access the potential storage space in front of the footbrace area with a bulkhead as opposed to foot pegs.)

## BMO’s Second Annual Fall Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament

Turnout was strong again for BMO’s second annual fall smallmouth bass fishing tournament, held in September. Jed Plunkert once again took first place (this guy must THINK like a bass!) but competition was strong, and a lot of BIG fish were caught. Jody Queen won the Wilderness Systems Radar 115 with Helix Drive, and everyone won something. Also for the first time we had a few gals compete this year. (We hope to see even more in 2018!)



*One of Jed’s Prize  
Winning Fish*



*Wilderness Systems  
Kayak Crate*

## Rock On!

Hap's back hanging out at BMO and as usual has an uncanny knack for finding the most unusual river rocks and pieces of wood. His latest is an easy chair...complete with armrest!



*Hap's Rock Chair*

## BMO's New Sign...Finally!

After our shop sign blew down last fall Doug decided he wanted something a little more versatile. Almost a year later our new sign is up and running. (Former employee Gabby phoned almost immediately and commented "Welcome to the Digital Age!") Fortunately, Greg knows how to program it, 'cause neither Doug nor I have a clue!



*BMO's new LED Sign  
(Looks better in person)*

## Fall Sales

We'd like to think you read our newsletter 'cause it's informative and fun, but suspect it's really because you want to know when our next sale is. Sooo,

- 1) Since 2018 boats are arriving daily, 2017 and older in stock boats are on sale until gone. (Some exceptions apply due to manufacturer's regulations.)
- 2) Kayak rentals are starting to slow down and 2018 rental boats are arriving, so we have a limited number of used rental boats for sale as well.
- 3) The day after Thanksgiving, traditionally known as "Black Friday", was originally the kickoff to the holiday shopping season, and an opportunity for businesses to "put themselves in the black". It has since morphed into a cut-throat race for the best deals at large retailers, which are usually in small supply and don't really benefit anyone other than those lucky few at the front of the line (assuming they don't get trampled in the process!) We don't have lines here, but will have sales as a lead in to Small Business Saturday.
- 4) Along with other small businesses around the country we're partnering with American Express again to promote "Shop Small" during Small Business Saturday, November 25th, when you'll find deals throughout the store. ('Course we hope you remember and support small businesses throughout the year as well!)



## New Car Blues

Searching for a new vehicle to replace your trusty shuttle car? Heads up; make sure to check the roofline and roof rack fit guides before signing on the dotted line. Even rough and ready SUV's are more and more coming up as "no fit" these days, and unfortunately several of our customers don't find this out until AFTER the purchase. This is especially important if you plan to carry two full size canoes (or wide fishing kayaks, tandems, etc.) and/or if you're hoping to re-use rack components you already have.

(Doug and I drive car salesmen and women crazy with our questions about rooflines, towing capability, etc. when they're dying to expound instead on MPG or the state of the art GPS system, but it's saved us from making some bad decisions and having to leave trusted boats behind when we'd rather be using them!)

## Assalot 2017...Turtle Coitus Interruptus

Once again The BMO gang gathered over Columbus Day Weekend to celebrate our annual staff retreat (meaning retreat to the river bank for 3 days and don't work, other than to feed the bonfire or feed ourselves.) The weekend usually includes lots of impromptu acoustic music as well, and this year was no exception. In fact a few new songs were written...

Part way through the second day I took a walk along the river bank and noticed a Map Turtle about 5 feet or so offshore acting rather peculiar. Although its legs were moving it wasn't going anywhere, but rather looked like it was teetering on a rock just below the surface and couldn't get off (no pun intended, as you will see shortly). In addition, every couple minutes it would submerge its head, then come up and flail

around some more. After about ten minutes of this I decided to free it, but was rather shocked when I picked it up and another turtle "fell off" from underneath it. I don't think either turtle was very happy with me, and when the rest of the crew found out, (yup, I was stupid enough to admit it!) a minimum of 3 new songs were written and sung (over, and over) about disrupted turtle love. (I hope they managed to find each other and finish what I so rudely interrupted!)



*Map Turtle Giving Mary  
the Stink Eye*

## Parting Shot

Tim was so into the Solar Eclipse this year that he decided to make it his Halloween costume. (He had to drink a lot of beer to create the Corona!)



*Tim's Costume*

That's it for now; hope to see you soon at the shop or on the water!

**BMO**  
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-The BMO Gang  
(Doug, Mary, Kris, Sarah, & Tim)