

NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

PRESENTS

2025 WORLD TOUR

20 YEARS

PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL

produced by

rapidmedia
WE PADDLE. WE CARE.



VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVORITE FILM
ON THE BACK
COVER AND GET A

**FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION**

PLUS, ENTER
TO WIN AN

Aqua Bound.
PRIZE PACK

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

PADDLE

THE NWT

From rugged mountains and pristine boreal forests to the vast Arctic tundra and exhilarating whitewater rapids, the North has no shortage of adventures waiting for you.

Which one will you embark on next?

Come and explore
the legendary lakes and
renowned rivers of the NWT.

SPECTACULARNWT.COM





Black Feather Adventures

Getting you down the river

Paddle Spectacular Northern Rivers
in the NWT and Yukon:
Nahanni, Broken Skull, Natla, Keele,
Mountain, Wind, Snake and more.



blackfeather.com

20 YEARS PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL

2025 WORLD TOUR

PRESENTING PARTNER

SPECTACULAR
NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD SPONSOR

Aqua Bound™

WORLD TOUR SPONSOR

Black Feather
the wilderness adventure company

CATEGORY SPONSORS

AIRE

BORÉAL DESIGN
GO BEYOND

JIIMAAN KINOMAAGEWIN
THE CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
LE MUSÉE CANADIEN DU CANOT

dryrobe®

espirit

Kokatat

KOKOPELLI

Madawaska
Kanu Centre

Octava Valley

Paddle Responsibly

SPIN & SWIMMING
CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM

VIDEO PRODUCTION PARTNERS

NOMO
FILMS

THE PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL IS A RAPID MEDIA PRODUCTION

rapidmedia
WE PADDLE. WE CARE.™

PADDLING
MAGAZINE

KAYAK
ANGLER

WORLD TOUR
PADDLING
FILM FESTIVAL

WORLD TOUR
PADDLING
BUSINESS

PADDLING
MAGAZINE

COVER PHOTO: TORE NJØTEN



JIIMAAN KINOMAAGEWIN
THE CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
LE MUSÉE CANADIEN DU CANOT

Your next
ADVENTURE
awaits...



EXPLORE the world's largest collection of paddled watercraft, IMMERSE yourself in interactive exhibits and outdoor adventures, and DISCOVER our canoe and kayak rentals, workshops and certifications, kids camps, gift store and cafe at The Canadian Canoe Museum!

Open Daily
10 AM - 5 PM

Thursdays
10 AM - 8 PM



2077 Ashburnham Dr.
Peterborough, ON

canoemuseum.ca

Eden Photography



Brainwashing works.
Photo: Kurt Gardner
Photography

TWENTY YEARS OF STOKE

TWO DECADES AGO, the editors of *Paddling Magazine* asked a simple question: "How do we get new people into paddling?"

Back then, the magazine was based out of a creaky old farmhouse. Editors rolled their chairs to the edge of their office doors to brainstorm in the narrow hallway. The team scribbled ambitious ideas on a flip chart with colorful markers. The idea that stuck—and the answer to the question above—is why you're here tonight: a film festival where paddlers could bring family and friends for an evening of brainwashing on the big screen.

Fast forward 20 years and the Paddling Film Festival has received over 1,200 film submissions, screened more than 400 films on its World Tour and captivated over 250,000 viewers in more than 400 cities around the world.

How many adventures have those films inspired? Countless.

How many paddlers did we create?
That's your homework.

I attended my first Paddling Film Festival in 2010, two years before I started working for *Paddling Magazine*. One of the films that year featured a young family who paddled 3,000 miles across Canada to meet the late acclaimed

naturalist and author Farley Mowat. Already an avid canoe tripper, that film still blew my mind with the size of adventure possible with a paddle. It stuck with me.

The following year, I left a big city job to spend a summer paddling in the North and never looked back. The festival didn't just change my life; it set off a chain reaction.

As for my non-paddling friends who I cajoled into coming that night? They planned their first of many canoe trips that same summer.

This year, the Paddling Film Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary with a lineup that promises to be the best yet. Travel from the world's highest huck off a glacier to roaring rapids on the Zambezi; from Scotland's misty lochs to the workshop of a legendary canoe builder; and from a record-setting paddle on the Mississippi River to exploring friendship in Utah's Desolation Canyon. These films don't just tell adventure stories—they will plant the seeds for future ones.

We started with markers, a flip chart and a sneaky idea in a creaky old farmhouse. Twenty years later, our brainwashing continues. Thanks for being part of it.

Kaydi Pyette
Editor in Chief, Paddling Magazine

WATCH ALL FILMS AT PADDLINGFILMFESTIVAL.COM/WATCH

YOU SPOKE. WE LISTENED! T-FORMEX LITE IS HERE

T-Formex Lite is not a cheapening of T-Formex, but rather a reoptimization of where the material is placed. We also examined every component to see where we could achieve weight reduction. Paddlers fully grasp the difference between a 65 and a 55 lb canoe, and by all indications, they are excited about this development.

Limited models now available at our dealers.

T-Formex Lite. Light on your shoulders, but not on performance.



T-Formex

esqui
ESQUIE.COM

T-Formex
Lite



(Ay Chihuahua!)

A GUIDE TO FIGHTING FOR WILD RIVERS

Twelve years ago, OARS joined forces with American Rivers and Friends of the Yampa to host an annual Yampa River Awareness Project river trip. Join a transformative rafting journey along the free-flowing Yampa River and see what could be lost if the river is threatened by a major dam, diversion or dewatering project. *A Guide to Fighting for Wild Rivers* illustrates how immersing people in a river's beauty and sharing its ecological significance fosters deep, personal connections that inspire long-term conservation.

Director: Logan Bockrath
Producer: OARS



SPONSORED BY



¡AY CHIHUAHUA!

Expedition kayakers take on the mile-deep Barranca Candameña in the Wild West of Chihuahua, Mexico. At the put-in, with heavy rain filling the river, the team weighs the danger of flash floods and the specter of narcos against their goal to be the first to descend one of the most spectacular canyons on Earth by kayak.

Director: Benjamin David Stookesberry



SPONSORED BY



BETWEEN THE LINES

This film is a moving reflection on what it means to be connected to the water, fish, and one's truest expression of self. The river is a thread woven in and out of Alex Obregon's life since he was three weeks old. While working as a raft guide in southern Chile, Alex found his love of fly fishing by way of whitewater, and simultaneously deepened his appreciation and understanding of all the spaces and species a river holds.

Director & Producer: Liz McGregor



SPONSORED BY



BEYOND THE EDGE

Red Bull athlete Will Gadd shares his experience with loss and risk in adventure sports.

Director: Taylor Ramljak

Producer: Taylor Ramljak, Brock Heshka



Between The Lines

COMING IN HOT POTATO



aire.com | 800.247.3432



Capsized

CANYON CHORUS

Set against the backdrop of a raft trip in Desolation Canyon, Utah, Mikah Meyer, a traveler and LGBTQ+ advocate, reflects with three close friends and his mentor, Larry Edwards. As a child, Mikah believed he could never have a successful life and be publicly out and gay. When he moved to college and met Larry, his openly gay choir professor, a lifelong mentorship was born. As Larry enters what he calls the final chapter of his life, he reflects on the lifelong fight for openness and vulnerability within the queer community.

Director: Chris Cresci

Producer: Davis Love

CAPSIZED

Some dream of summiting the highest peaks, visiting a remote island or being the fastest to navigate a route. But not Emily. She dreams of esoteric adventure and of dragging a canoe across a bog. Enlisting her friend, the pair set off to navigate the Isle of Lewis' intricate system of lochs. But finding the right kit can be a challenge for Emily. When outdoor shops only stock technical clothing up to a size 16, how is adventure possible for the 45 percent of women in the United Kingdom who wear larger sizes?

Director: Roxanna Barry

Producer: Harriet Sykes



SPONSORED BY



JIIIMAAN KINOAAGEWIN
THE CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
LE MUSÉE CANADIEN DU CANOT

CINQUE TERRE - FIVE LANDS

The heavily touristed streets of Cinque Terre might seem an unlikely place for a sea kayaking trip. But with folding kayaks on their backs, camping supplies, and a goal to visit every gelateria, three paddling friends board a train bound for the azure waters of the Mediterranean. A self-supported kayak mission offers a unique way to experience one of Europe's most celebrated coastal destinations.

Director & Producer: Olaf Obsommer

GANGA GIRLS

Naina Adhikari, an Indian professional kayaker, aims to bring girls together and create an inclusive community in India's male-dominated kayaking scene. This empowering project supports girls, introducing them to kayaking and self-discovery. Witness their transformative journey as they paddle 70 kilometers on the Ganga River. Get ready to be inspired by their courage, camaraderie and determination.

Director: Pashant Bhatt, Jyoti Jangra

Producer: Yukti Mital



Cinque Terre - Five Lands

Secret
passageways to:
More fishing
through private land
in Montana.

Discreet make-out spots.

Less expected IG

backdrops.

Where the wild things are.

Nude beaches

to yourself.

Fresh spring skiing.

A place to wear a two-piece

away from prying eyes.

New spearfishing spots.

Boundary Waters islands all to your family.

More adventure in your backyard stashes

Less crowded single-speed trails

More swings at ducks on public land

New angles on old grounds

Abalone coves, Elk wallows.

NEW LINES

KOKOPELLI



Watch the rest of the
2025 World Tour shortlist
and hundreds more
adventures on our new
streaming channel.

LAUGH. DISCOVER. GET INSPIRED.

PADDLING
MAGAZINETV

paddlingmagtv.com

dryrobe®

get changed. stay warm.



Enhance your cold water
adventures with the original
outdoor changing robe.
Made with 100% recycled fabrics.

dryrobe.com





HITOLÁAYCA (GOING UPRIVER)

Devin Reuben is training to be the first certified *nimiipuu* whitewater guide of his generation. The *nimiipuu* (Nez Perce) have a long history of river travel—in fact, they introduced the practice to settlers—but centuries of displacement and disconnection means Tribal members are now largely absent from their ancestral rivers. Devin says, "It's one big step for us; not just me, all of us. We're slowly bringing our culture back."

Director: Anna Lueck

Producer: Clark Shimeall

ICE WATERFALLS

For years, professional kayaker Aniol Serrasolses has dreamed of running the rivers and waterfalls formed by melting ice caps and gigantic glaciers. Accompanied by a team of expert kayakers and Arctic guides, he ventures into one of the most remote and rugged regions of the planet: Svalbard. Amidst the Arctic's otherworldly landscapes, reality is about to surpass his wildest dreams.

Director: David Arnaud



SPONSORED BY



MAKAPO

The Makapo Aquatics Para Outrigging team races in the Wild Buffalo Relay across the Catalina Channel, where their shared journey becomes a powerful testament to the strength of camaraderie among those living with disabilities.

Director: Tess Price

MISSISSIPPI SPEED RECORD: AN EPIC ADVENTURE

Embark on an epic journey with four adventurers as they paddle the entire 2,340 miles of the Mississippi River in a single 23-foot canoe, aiming to set a new Guinness World Record. Paddling 24/7 for over two weeks, they eat, sleep, and even use the bathroom in the canoe, supported by a crew and two trailing boats. This inspiring documentary isn't about conquering the river but moving with its flow. Will the Mississippi River allow them to break the record?

Director & Producer: Alex Maier, Amy Maier



GO BEYOND WITH INDUSTRY
LEADING KAYAK TECHNOLOGY
YOU CAN TRUST FOR EXPLORING
THE GREAT OUTDOORS



BORÉALDESIGN

WATCH ALL FILMS AT PADDLINGFILMFESTIVAL.COM/WATCH

www.borealdesign.com



Mother River

MOTHER RIVER

A look into Devin Brown's life as she attempts to become the first Black woman on record to kayak the entire Mississippi River, from source to sea.

Director:
Jeremiah Schuster



SPONSORED BY



RIVER COWBOYS: KEEPIN' IT WILD

The statewide nonprofit Kentucky Waterways Alliance teams up with local nonprofit Friends of Red River and Wilkinson Visual to showcase the beauty of Kentucky's only Wild & Scenic River. The film highlights the efforts of Russ Miller, the original "River Cowboy," and the community committed to protecting and restoring the Wild & Scenic Red River. It also documents the history of the challenging Upper Red River Cleanup, explores how illegal dumping affects waterways in this remote and protected area, and offers potential solutions and actions.

Director: Laura Gregory, Mike Wilkinson
Producer: Laura Gregory

RUNNABLE

Join Cameron Hopkin and Sam Garthwaite as they navigate the thrilling world of whitewater paddleboarding, sharing their personal stories, triumphs and dreams for the future of this adrenaline-fueled sport. Witness the beauty of nature and the power of

human determination in this inspiring documentary that will leave you craving adventure and pushing your own boundaries. Get ready to dive into the heart-pounding action and heartfelt reflections of *Runnable*.

Director & Producer: Jake Garthwaite



SPONSORED BY

dryrobe®



Runnable



Kōkatat™

THE REIMAGINED KOKATAT ICON DRY SUIT, FEATURING GORE-TEX PRO, IS THE MOST RUGGED DRY SUIT ON THE PLANET, ALLOWING THE ICONS OF WHITEWATER TO REDEFINE THE LIMITS OF POSSIBILITY.



WWW.KOKATAT.COM

WATCH ALL FILMS AT [PADDLINGFILMFESTIVAL.COM/WATCH](https://paddlingfilmfestival.com/watch)



The Great Divide

SBONELO

An intimate telling of Sbonelo Khwela's connection to the sport of canoeing. From humble beginnings to finding purpose and the bravery to dream.

Director & Producer: Dominic Taylor

STREAMERS, STEAMERS AND STRUGGLES

Four kayakers (ab)use rafting as a means to catch fish on Slovenia's chalk stream called Krka. Casting flies amongst castles and cattails, this became the arena for a grueling competition that applied pressure of all kinds.

Director: Rožle Bregar
Producer: Leewa Collective



SPONSORED BY



THE CROSSING: THROUGH BLUE

Experience *The Crossing: Through Blue* and immerse yourself in a grueling long-distance endurance paddle challenge from Bimini, Bahamas, to Lake Worth Beach, Florida. Revisit the events that unfolded at last year's The Crossing for Cystic Fibrosis—an 80-mile paddleboard race with a purpose—through the lens of Team BLU3.

Director and Producers: Logan Graham, Zachary Solomon

THE GREAT DIVIDE

A father dreams of taking his kids on one last big adventure to witness the glaciers before they disappear. But his children's lives are evolving, global warming is accelerating and he's growing older. Then, accidents strike, narrowing their window of opportunity. After two years of planning and recovering from injuries, the family finally embarks on their now-or-never journey, crossing the Great Divide.

Director: Rongqin Su
Producer: Dan Whelan, Rongqin Su

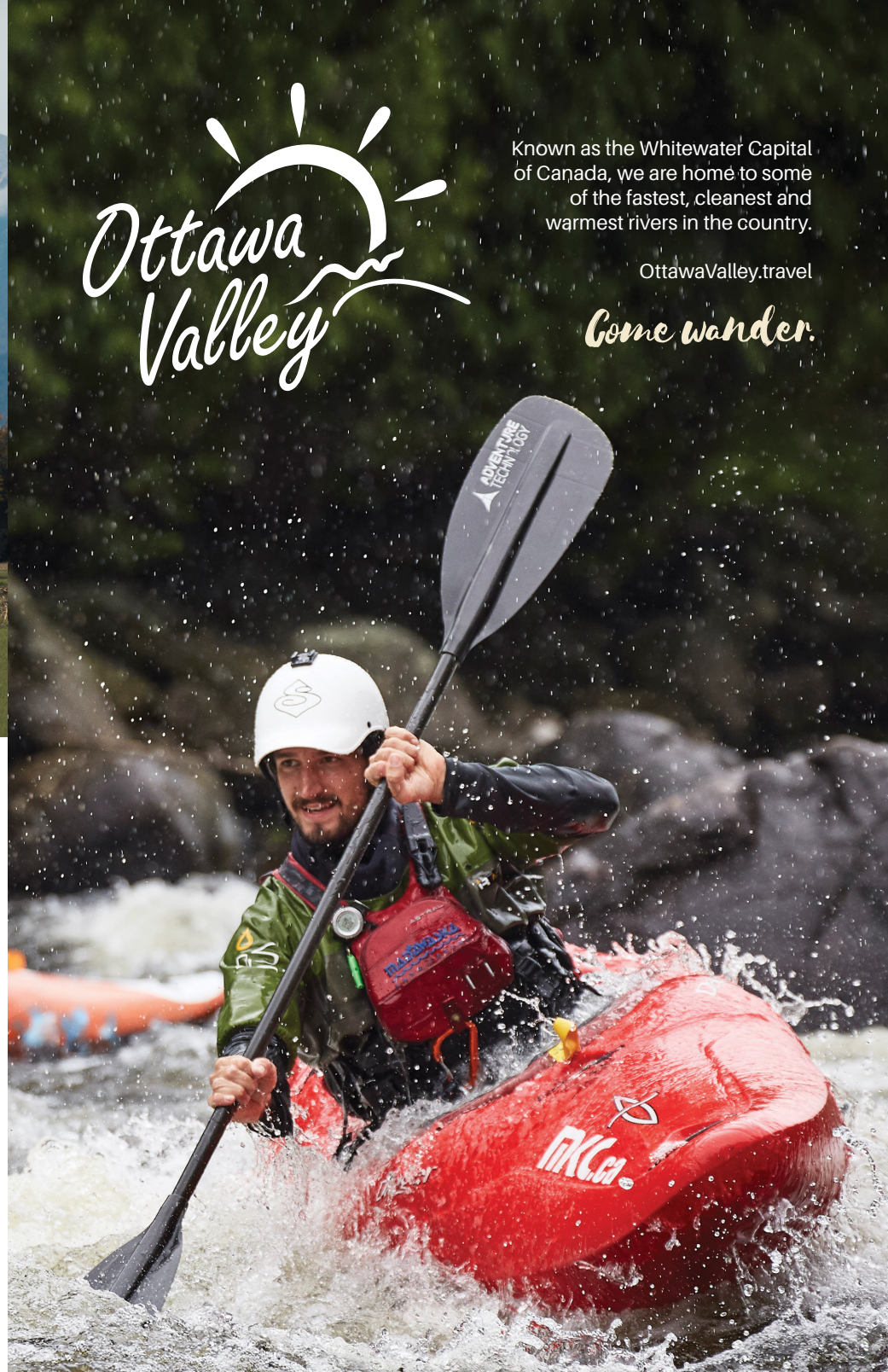
WATCH ALL FILMS AT PADDLINGFILMFESTIVAL.COM/WATCH

Ottawa Valley

Known as the Whitewater Capital of Canada, we are home to some of the fastest, cleanest and warmest rivers in the country.

OttawaValley.travel

Come wander.





The Survival Of The Wood Canoe



THE LAST OF THE LAST

Chuck Graham is an award-winning wildlife photographer, writer, waterman and kayak guide. His work has taken him all over the world, yet his favorite place remains his home turf—California's Channel Islands. Chuck is known for tenacious explorations by kayak, completing nine channel crossings and having circumnavigated every Channel Island. His focus is on telling stories of conservation at these islands.

Director: Malakai Isaacs
Producer: Mairin McNerney

THE SMOKE THAT THUNDERS

Aiming to paddle the fabled Minus Rapids at the base of Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, Ben Marr's biggest challenge is to get to them by trekking upstream. A total assault on the senses awaits as the force of the river speaks for itself.

Director & Producer: Caleb Roberts



The Wintering Grounds

THE SURVIVAL OF THE WOOD CANOE

People around the world have traveled in canoes they have proudly made themselves since time began. *The Survival Of The Wood Canoe* chronicles the adventures of one couple who, over 50 years, built a business based on teaching the art of canoe-building. Ted Moores and his partner, Joan Barrett, are trailblazers in the growing sphere of DIY craftspeople, helping people realize their dreams of building truly beautiful and functional boats.

Director & Producer: Joan Barrett



THE WINTERING GROUNDS

For most of the year, bands of world-class freestyle kayakers roam the land in search of waves. But when the rivers freeze, everyone finds their way to a special spot on the Chattahoochee River on the Alabama-Georgia border. Squatting in an abandoned parking lot, they spend the winter training for the next world championships on North America's best winter whitewater. Although called "certifiable lunatics" by the locals, this tight-knit group is proof of the power of family and that everything is more fun with friends.

Director: Jeff Springer
Producer: Paige Martin Swift





Wild Sea

TIBET: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

This adventurous and intense kayaking film by Olaf Obsommer features some of the world's top kayakers, including Nouria Newman, Adrian Mattern and the late Bren Orton. It follows an ambitious expedition on Tibet's Tsangpo River during the high-water monsoon, when the river becomes one of the world's most dangerous. The film showcases powerful rapids, high altitudes, and the river's relentless force, testing even the best. A tale of resilience and teamwork, *Mission Impossible* is a must-watch for fans of extreme sports and adventure.

Director & Producer: Olaf Obsommer

VAN BY A RIVER – THE ABBY HOLCOMBE STORY

Ten years ago, Peter and Kathy Holcombe bought a Winnebago RV and set out for a lifetime of adventure on the road with their nine-year-old daughter, Abby. They raised and educated Abby as they pursued their travel photography business and inspired her to embrace a love of the outdoors and kayaking—a passion that would lead her to chase a Freestyle Kayak World Championship. The more Abby travels, the more she realizes "home isn't a place—it's a feeling you get when you discover something new with the people you love."

Director: Mark Nevils, Joe Sir

Producer: Mark Nevils

WILD SEA

Wild Sea is a captivating short documentary that delves into the life of Jeff Allen, a trailblazing figure in the world of sea kayaking. The film traces Jeff's journey from his formative years to his role as one of the foremost sea kayak guides and coaches of our time.

The film illuminates the transformative power of the sea as Jeff finds purpose and healing through his connection with the ocean. In particular, his 2004 Japan circumnavigation serves as a poignant testament to the healing power of nature.

Director & Producer: Tom Vetterl



SPONSORED BY
BORÉALDESIGN
GO BEYOND



Van By A River - The Abby Holcombe Story



Photo: David Jackson



Safe Travels

Wherever your paddling adventures take you, keep an eye out for changing conditions, dress for immersion and *always* wear your life jacket.

ON THE ROAD • IN THE AIR • ON THE WATER
BUCKLE UP!



WATERSPORTSFUNDATION.COM | #SAFERPADDLING

WATCH ALL FILMS AT [PADDLINGFILMFESTIVAL.COM/WATCH](https://paddlingfilmfestival.com/watch)

NOMO FILMS TELL STORIES THAT MATTER

nomofilms.com



"All stars for NOMO!"
—Terri Falvey, Director of
Marketing | PLUME

"NOMO delivered a brilliant
film." —Alex Lugton, Program
Partnerships | BBC

"Fantastic to work with and
completed in record time!"
—Kim Davidson, Director of
Marketing | BAYER



Aqua Bound™



AQUA BOUND AERIAL

UNMATCHED DURABILITY POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

LAM-LOK™ Patent Pending technology mechanically bonds the laminated blade layers together with over 5 meters of an aramid thread per blade. **Lam-Lok™** significantly prolongs the life of the paddle by resisting delamination, abrasion and impact.



LEVEL UP
YOUR
PADDLING

- Carbon & Fiberglass Blades
- Two Blade Sizes (Major & Minor)
- Straight & Crank Shafts
- 1pc, 2pc, 4pc Options
- Fixed & Adjustable Lengths (5 cm)
- Fixed & Adjustable Offset Angles (Infinite)

VISIT YOUR LOCAL DEALER OR
AQUABOUND.COM



COMPLETE THIS FORM TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

1

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

☒ Yes! I'd like a FREE digital subscription to *Paddling Magazine*.

☐ Yes! I'd also like a FREE digital subscription to *Kayak Angler* – North America's #1 kayak fishing magazine.

Email is required to log in to your free digital subscriptions. PROMISE: We will not sell or distribute your personal information.



2

**PEOPLE'S
CHOICE
AWARD**

SPONSORED BY

Aqua Bound

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE FILM

FAVORITE FILM:

CONTEST ENTRY NOT REQUIRED TO VOTE.

3

☐ YES, I'D LIKE TO ENTER THE *Aqua Bound* SWEEPSTAKES

for a chance to win an Aqua Bound composite fiberglass paddle (up to \$524 value)

For sweepstakes rules, visit paddlingfilmfestival.com/vote



1

**KAYAK TOURING
Tango Fiberglass**

Choice of 2 or 4 piece,
Straight or Bent shaft,
Color Options
(\$374-\$499)



2

**WHITewater
Aerial Fiberglass Straight Shaft**

Choice of 1 or 2 piece,
Major or Minor blade size
(\$499-\$524)



3

**PACKRAFTING
Whiskey Fiberglass**

Choice of 2 or 4 piece,
Straight or Bent shaft,
Color Options
(\$374-\$499)



4

**SUP
Malta Fiberglass**

Choice of 1 or 2 piece,
Color Options
(\$299-\$324)

DROP IN BALLOT BOX PROVIDED BY YOUR HOST or go to
paddlingfilmfestival.com/vote (subscription offer code: PeoplesChoice2025)



TEAR OUT THIS PAGE AND DROP IN BALLOT BOX TO SUBSCRIBE, VOTE AND/OR ENTER.