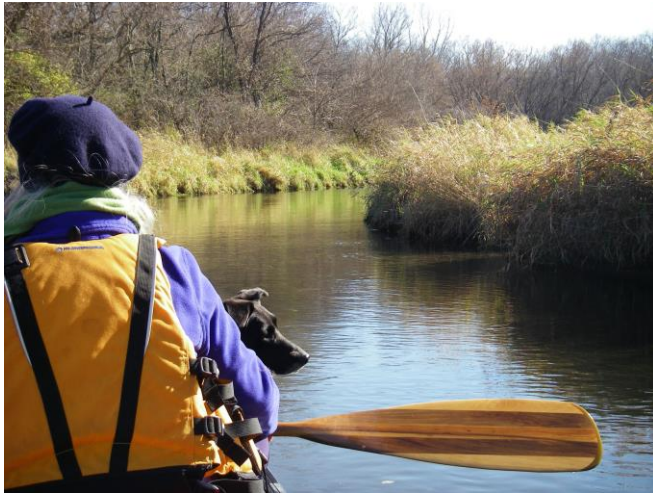


Woody Osborne photo exhibit currently showing at UW-Madison's Center for Limnology



Birthday Paddle, Sugar River

The Sugar River is a sweet little river south of Madison, Wi. My friend, Anne, and her dog, Kahsha, wanted to go paddling for Anne's birthday. Taking out in Paoli, Wi., we found treats at the Bread and Brat Haus there and good beers at the Hop Garden. The Sugar is a great little escape, close to Madison.



Four Islands, Turtle-Flambeau Flowage

The Turtle Flambeau-Flowage is one of my favorite escapes in the state. In the fall, morning fogs are common and lend an air of mystery to the landscape.



Frosty Dawn, Namekagon River

May 1st, 2016, dawned cold and clear on the Namekagon River. The Namekagon flows through north-western Wisconsin before it meets the St. Croix. Both rivers are accessible and provide many good campsites. My favorite stretch of the Namekagon is from the bridge at County K down to Riverside Landing, on the St. Croix. This is a leisurely two night trip encompassing some of the best of both rivers.



High Sand Banks, Namekagon River

Photo: Myles Okelly

The Namekagon (and the St. Croix) cut through some sandy hills. Paddlers are asked to not climb the sand banks to avoid furthering erosion and to protect turtle habitat.



Paddling the Driftless, Grant River

The Grant River is a twisty delight deep in the heart of the Driftless Region. It is the river that got me interested in something other than flat-water paddling. I like the river so much that I swim out of my boat every time I am on it.



Kickapoo Sandstone, Kickapoo River

One of the loveliest rivers in the state, the Kickapoo receives a lot of attention. In the summer it can be quite busy. In the fall, however, you can sometimes have it all to yourself. The river is lined with striking sandstone bluffs and cuts a twisty path through the beautiful Driftless Region. Camping is available for a small fee. The sites are primitive but pretty. The Kickapoo is known as a “flashy” river, meaning that it can rise very quickly in a storm, due to local geography.



Green Cathedral, Kickapoo River

Beneath the canopy of the trees, the stillness and majesty of the river is complete.



Lost Feather, Wisconsin River

Camped on a sandbar, I came upon a number of feathers by the water's edge. In the morning light I found this one, with two perfect water droplets, each one encompassing a cluster of grains of sand. The texture was marvelous and I feel fortunate to have captured it.



Quiet Morning, Wisconsin River

I spend a lot of time on the Wisconsin River. It never fails to present me with moments of sublime beauty. On this day, I started a trip in the pre-dawn light and found myself near Ferry Bluff as the fog started to lift. Getting out to stretch, I turned back to look at my canoe and was caught by the stillness of the moment. I was glad I had my camera with me.



Sinuuous Sand, Willow Flowage

In 2005 I helped my friend, Anne, take her aging dog, Juneau, on a last camping trip. I loaded them into my canoe and paddled out to an island on the Willow flowage. We gave Juneau a lovely time, helping her get around and taking our time with her. On our second morning, after a day of rain, I got out of the tent to find the sun breaking through the fog. The lines of the sand showed as stark

contrast to the water and dawn light, with the hull of my canoe just picked out in the foreground.



Evening Paddle, Wolf River

My oldest friend, Lee, reintroduced me to fishing on the Wolf River near his grandparent's place in Post Lake, Wi. On this particular September evening, the air and water were completely calm as we headed out to try our luck with the pike and bass.



Happy Camper, Wisconsin River

My old friend, Erik, helped reignite my passion for paddling and camping. This shot came about one morning after I had managed to steal him away from his responsibilities for a night. The water and the day time temperatures were still warm enough for swimming, and the nights were cool enough to be happy for a fire in the morning. By the look on his face, I would say it did him some good.