

**Braxton Barden:** *Born in Atlanta, Georgia and was raised in Covington, Georgia. Early in his life, he developed a passion for the outdoors in particular waterborne activities. His grandmother fostered an appreciation for the arts and the natural world. She would let him use her 35mm camera which he quickly learned the expense of film and developing. After graduating high school with a desire to see the world, he joined the world's greatest Navy and spent the next twenty years sailing from the Northern Pacific to the Arabian Gulf. He has hiked extensively throughout Japan to include Mt Fuji and Asahidake on the island of Hokkaido. Additionally, he has two Missouri River 340 races under his belt, paddled countless miles on the Lower Mississippi. Brax worked at Quapaw Canoe Company where he served as a guide on the Lower Mississippi River, photographer, and grant writer.*

**1: First memory in a canoe or kayak?** *I am fortunate to have been exposed to canoeing from an early age and to have spent my life around water. Growing up, my brother and I had the Grumman canoe that was given to my dad and his brothers for Christmas when they were young. Since then, the canoe has been shared around the family. One of the memories that sticks out, is the trouble my brother and I got into for chasing mallards around the lake. First sea kayak memory and experience was paddling 26.2 miles in the Cane River Marathon. I finished dead last, but I finished with my hands wrinkled beyond belief.*

**2: Who's your favorite band or musician?** *Watermelon Slim*

**3: Favorite Missouri River moment?** *Every time I paddle and especially at night.*

**4: Strangest or most unique job you ever had?** *The most unique job was working for John Ruskey at Quapaw Canoe Company.*

**5: Best piece of paddling advice that you have ever been given?** *Every time you get in a new type of boat, flip it over so you know how far you can push it.*

**6: Who or what are your biggest inspirations?** *The who are the Blues musicians in Clarksdale, MS that play for the love of music. The what is the natural world that constantly draws me in and always teaches me.*

**7: Something no one knows about you?** *I am fascinated by the number 3.*

**8: If you had the enough money what would you do?** *Produce films that motivate people to spend more time outside.*

**9: Most unique paddling or camping gear you have?** *Complete set of camping pots, pan, plates, and utensils my grandpa passed down to me.*