

Will Garvin: Lives in Helena, Montana with his lovely wife Felomena. Will is a paddler and river angel along the Missouri River, helping to portage paddlers around some of the upper dams. Will paddled a canoe from Helena, Montana to Helena, Arkansas a few years back. He was the first permitted fishing guide on the Missouri river in Montana. He is known for his summer cookouts and is a diehard Clemson University sports fan.

First memory in a canoe or kayak? *As an 11year old I went to Boy Scout camp and the "Icebreaker" was a canoe race. 1st day ... right off the bus ... jamming the troop into a war canoe. That did it for me; it was super. Photo: Getting ready to depart down the Yellowstone River.*

Who's your favorite band or musician? *Recognizing that life is dynamic ... 1st it was Aretha ... now it is Springsteen ... and if I can spend the rest of my life listening to Jennifer Hudson that will be perfect.*

Are you related to anyone famous or have any brush with fame? *My cousin David Wilkins was our US ambassador in Ottawa.*

Favorite Missouri River moment?

As I paddled to the beach at Reunion Bay I felt something ... but what? It was spirits. Several days later I learned that that is the site where the Corps of Discovery was all in one place after many weeks of separation. It's also a beautiful beach. Strangest or most unique job you ever had? Drinking water system renovator for Gahini, Rwanda. Only 1,000 of a 60,000 person town had survived when we arrived (1994) and none were water system operators. We "found" the system, established diesel generators, pumped the system while progressively repairing breaks and in five weeks water was once again flowing to a hospital, school and orphanage that had been "dry" for five months.

Best piece of paddling advice that you have ever been given? *Lean into the bush that you are being swept toward.*

Who or what are your biggest inspirations? *I continue to be inspired by any person who goes to work every day, gets it done and then eschews the "throw it away" idea ... which can take the form of consumerism, abusiveness, addictions or recklessness.*