

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
MISSOURI**



**WHITEWATER  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## **Saint Francis River to host Missouri's 50<sup>TH</sup> Whitewater Championships**

The [Missouri Whitewater Association \(MWA\)](#) will be holding the 50<sup>TH</sup> Annual Missouri Whitewater Championships over the weekend of 17-18-19 March 2017, at the Millstream Gardens Conservation Area of the Saint Francis River near Fredericktown, MO.

The Championships continue a tradition begun in 1968, when the first Saint Francis River Whitewater Slalom Race was held on the Silver Mines section of the river, downstream from the current location. The 2017 event will feature traditional downriver and whitewater slalom racing for canoes and kayaks, and also includes innovations like Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs) and Boatercross racing. The race is divided into multiple categories based on paddlers' skill, boat type, and age. Recent races at the Millstream Gardens shut-ins have attracted competitors from ten states and hundreds of spectators. Competitors range from beginners to seasoned veterans to the occasional Olympic level expert, and range in age from preteens to seventies. A nominal race registration fee, as well as banquet ticket, raffle ticket, and t-shirt sales, help support the incidentals required to put on the event.

For the 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Championships, we will have a commemorative program highlighting our 50 years of whitewater racing on the Saint Francis. It will include historical information, race results, and photos, and advertising space for our sponsors and supporters. More information about the history of the Missouri Whitewater Championships, including a [video documentary](#) of the race, can be found at our website, [missouriwhitewater.org](http://missouriwhitewater.org).

For more information on the 50<sup>TH</sup> Annual Missouri Whitewater Championships, contact Race Director Dave Kovar at: [racedirector@missouriwhitewater.org](mailto:racedirector@missouriwhitewater.org).

For Media, Sponsorship and Program Advertising information, contact Rich Gran at: [50thMWC@missouriwhitewater.org](mailto:50thMWC@missouriwhitewater.org).

The MWA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and exists to encourage the growth of paddling, teach river safety, and educate the general public about the sport and river conservation.



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MISSOURI



# WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 50<sup>TH</sup> Annual Missouri Whitewater Championships — Race Information

**History** — The Meramec River Canoe Club (MRCC) originally hosted the first whitewater race held on the Saint Francis River in March 1968, with help from the Fredericktown Chamber of Commerce and the Fredericktown Jaycees. In 1976, after eight years, the Arnold Whitewater Association (AWA) and the Sierra Club took over the host role. In 1984, AWA became the Missouri Whitewater Association, with a name change to acknowledge their statewide presence. Today, the event comes together as 100 volunteers set up the race course, provide safety, judge, time, and score the racers. The MWA receives support from the Sierra Club Eastern Missouri Group, Saint Louis Canoe and Kayak Club, and Team River Runner. The races are held with the support of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

**Location** — The 2017 MWC will be held on the Millstream Gardens shut-ins section of the Saint Francis River, near Fredericktown, Missouri. The current location includes the largest whitewater drop on the river, known as “Big Drop”. Depending on rainfall, the river is considered Class II-III whitewater. At higher water levels, racing will be very limited. The Championships were moved to Millstream Gardens in 1988, after the section became a Conservation Area, at the request of the former owner, Elmer Tiemann. The first 20 years of whitewater racing were held on the Silver Mines section of the river, downstream from the current location. The primary whitewater feature of the Silver Mines section is the breach in the old Silver Mines dam.

**Schedule** — The 50<sup>TH</sup> Championships will kickoff with the Downriver event on Friday afternoon. Paddlers will race the clock and each other down a 2½ mile course from Millstream Gardens to the Silver Mines Recreation Area at Highway D Bridge, passing through the five major drops on the river. There will be live music and an award ceremony on Friday evening at the D Bridge Pavilion, with awards going to the fastest boaters in each class.

Saturday will start with Olympic, Expert & Novice whitewater slalom classes, with Age-Group classes in the afternoon. Spectators and photographers gather along the rocky, scenic banks of Millstream Gardens to watch the trained boaters compete on the Whitewater Slalom race course. Racers are judged on both precision and speed as they navigate 15-20 numbered gates through the rapids in the boulder-strewn riverbed. The day will close with awards and a catered banquet in the Fredericktown-Arcadia-Ironton area (location TBD).

Sunday starts with the Boatercross event, where heats of four to six boats race around obstacles to reach the finish line, with the fastest paddlers moving on to the next heat. The day continues with whitewater slalom for Open Canoes, Plastic Kayaks, & SUPs. After racing is over and the course is cleaned up, there will be a final award ceremony and volunteer raffle.

**Competition** — The race is divided into multiple categories based on paddlers' skill, boat type, and age. Competitors range from beginners to seasoned veterans to the occasional Olympic level expert, and range in age from preteens to those in their seventies. Boaters travel from around the country, and from as far away as Japan, to compete. Olympic-class paddlers have used this race as training preparation for future Olympic Games. In 1972, the Championships were a qualifier to the 1972 U.S. Olympic Trials. In 1994, the event was a qualifier to the 1994 Olympic Festival. In 1999 the race was a qualifying event for the U.S. National Team. In 2000 the race again served as a qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Trials.

More information can be found at our website, [missouriwhitewater.org](http://missouriwhitewater.org)



[vimeo.com/124411745](https://vimeo.com/124411745)



[vimeo.com/151770860](https://vimeo.com/151770860)

# SLALOM | DOWNRIVER | BOATERCROSS RACES

## MARCH 17-19 2017



- This event consists of slalom, downriver, and boatercross races for **kayaks, canoes and SUPs**, for all ages and skill levels, on **class II-III whitewater** at the Millstream Gardens Conservation Area
- If you want to participate, registration forms and info can be found at [missouriwhitewater.org](http://missouriwhitewater.org). We also accept volunteers!
- **Spectators welcome!** Viewing and parking are **FREE!** Come watch the action and take in the scenery
- **Concessions** provided by a local not-for-profit (TBD): hot breakfast, lunch, snacks & drinks
- **Lodging, food and fuel** are available in Fredericktown, Ironton, Arcadia and the surrounding area
- **Camping** is available at Silver Mines Recreation Area

### SCHEDULE

times and classes are subject to change

#### Friday, March 17

- 4:30 PM ..... Downriver Race
- 6:00 PM ..... Live Music at Silver Mines

#### Saturday, March 18

- 6:30 AM ..... Open practice
- 9:30 AM ..... Olympic/Expert/Novice
- 12:00 PM ..... Plastic/Age groups/C1/SUPs
- 6:00 PM ..... Banquet (location TBD)

#### Sunday, March 19

- 6:30 AM ..... Open practice
- 8:30 AM ..... Boatercross
- 10:30 AM ..... K1 long & short/OC1/OC2
- 2:45 PM ..... Course takedown
- 4:00 PM ..... Awards/raffles

