



# Canoe Building Workshop

By Shelley Banks

The intrigue of building a plywood canoe sparked much interest from *Stream Teamers* all over Missouri. The weekend of October 14-15<sup>th</sup> The Stream Team Program and the Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association hosted a hands-on plywood canoe building workshop at the Prairie Fork Conservation Area. The workshop was lead by three experienced canoe builders: Bob Schulz (Stream Team Biologist, Ozarks), Ted Haviland, and Steve Greathouse. Both Ted and Steve are part of the Upper Jacks Fork River Rats Stream Team, an exceedingly active Stream Team. The turn-out and weather was better than anticipated. All 19 pre-registered students eagerly awaited the start of the workshop early Saturday morning. The ladies from the Scenic River Stream Team Association graciously prepared coffee and meals for the entire two-day workshop.



The plan was to build one canoe from scratch, a second from pre-cut plywood pieces, and a third partially assembled canoe. One completed canoe would be the grand prize raffled off on Sunday. All participants would leave with plans for the canoe, and enough knowledge and experience needed to fabricate their own canoe. Indeed, students were able to participate in every step from cutting the plywood to autographing the canoe. One lucky participant, Greg Whaley, and his two sons were the winners of the completed canoe. Nevertheless, if you weren't the lucky winner or were not able to attend the workshop the two remaining canoes will be future raffle prizes. One canoe will be offered in a Quarterly Stream Team Activity Drawing, and the other in a Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association drawing.



If you aren't one of our future winners you may consider building your own canoe or attending the next Canoe Building Workshop. The canoe requires two sheets of 1/4" underlayment plywood, 1/4" x 1-1/2" lattice, fiberglass tape, and epoxy resin. The estimated cost is \$150 to \$200 with the epoxy resin encompassing the bulk of the budget. The end result is a 13.5' x 30" canoe with a holding capacity of 250 pounds. This is a great two-weekend project that the kids can lend a hand in building.

See the Bateau link below for lots of good information on epoxy resin, other materials, and tools, as well as, great descriptions on techniques.

<http://www.bateau2.com/free/cheapcanoe.htm>



Canoe winner Greg Whaley with his two sons.