

## International Whitewater Hall of Fame 2005 Nominee Biography



### Candidate: **Jon Lugbill**

**Category:** Champion (Living)  
**Sport:** Whitewater C-1  
**Years Active:** 1975 – Present  
**Home Base:** Richmond, Virginia USA

#### **Introduction:** (quoted from Affiliate Nomination Form)

“Whitewater Slalom Canoe C1 Champion, Jon Lugbill dominated the top levels of canoe slalom for over a decade (with Davey Hearn), revolutionizing the sport while producing innovations in paddling technique and boat design. Lugbill is a five-time World Champion in C1 slalom, and the only athlete in history to have won a record twelve World Championship gold medals. Lugbill is generally recognized as the best paddler to ever compete in whitewater canoeing, and he is the only paddler to appear on the Wheaties box.”

#### **Accomplishments:**

- 1989 - World Championships, Savage River, Maryland, USA, World Champion Gold & Team Gold
- 1987 - World Championships, Bourg St. Maurice, France, World Champion Gold & Team Gold
- 1983 - World Championships, Merano, Italy, World Champion Gold & Team Gold
- 1981 - World Championships, Bala, Wales, World Champion Gold & Team Gold
- 1979 - World Championships, Jonquiere, Quebec, Canada, World Champion Gold & Team Gold
- 1990 - World Cup Overall, Europe & USA, Champion Gold Medal
- 1989 - World Cup Overall, Europe, USA & Canada, Champion Gold Medal
- 1988 - World Cup Overall, Europe & USA, Gold Medal, inaugural season
- 1985 - World Championships, Augsburg, Germany, Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1991 - World Cup Overall, Europe & USA, Silver Medal

#### **Contributions:**

- 2004 - NBC Olympic Canoe Kayak analyst for slalom & sprint events, TV commentator & online journal
- 2000 - NBC Olympic Canoe Kayak analyst for slalom & sprint events, TV commentator & online journal

- 1977 -1995 Designer of a dozen whitewater slalom canoes used world-wide with (Davey Hearn, Bob Robison, Adam Clawson)
- 1977 -1989 New techniques & boat designs helped revolutionize whitewater slalom (along with top USA C1s)
- 1977 -1979 Pivoting slalom canoes led to Squirt Boating (along with top USA C1s)
- 1984 - Helped lobby to get the World Championships in the USA for 1st time, Int'l Savage River Worlds Advocate
- 1988 - Asked Governor William Donald Schaefer for \$1 million to host the Savage River World Championships
- 1991 - Dickerson Whitewater Course Model Unveiling at Navy's Model Basin PEPCO pledged financial support

#### **Articles/Books Written:**

- 2000 & 2004 – NBC Olympics.com Canoe Kayak Web Journal and content provider

#### **Honors & Other Accomplishments:**

- 1985 - Winner, Wheaties “Search for Champions” Contest, Image appeared on Wheaties cereal boxes
- 1989 - US Olympic Committee Top 10 Sportsman of the Year US Olympic Committee
- 1989 - USA Canoe Kayak Male Athlete of the Year, USA Canoe Kayak
- 1989 - James E. Sullivan Award Top 10 Finalist, Amateur Athletic Union
- 1989 - Eddie Rosenblum Award, Outstanding amateur athlete in Washington, DC
- US Whitewater Slalom Team Member 19 years: 1975-1992, 1995
- US Olympic Team 1992
- 1992 Olympic Games La Seu d'Urgell / Barcelona Spain 4th Place
- 1991 World Championships - Tacen, Yugoslavia (World Champion C1 Team)
- 1984 NBC Sports World “Survival of the Fittest” participant
- 1977 World Championships - Spittal, Austria (World Championship Team C2 Wildwater Bronze Medal with Bob Robison)
- National Champion C1 1986, 1992, 1995 & C2 Wildwater 1977 (Bob Robison)