

Lindy, with her master, Norm Ludwig, USCA's Competition Chair (for over a quarter century).

course and we look forward to next year's *Marathon Nationals*. – Mike Herbert

"This was my first time to race in a canoe. It was fun paddling with kids my age. I enjoyed watching all the races. It was worth the long trip to get to *Nationals* and the hotel we stayed in was nice (The Ramada Inn). – Joshua Sayger

"I had a wonderful time and enjoyed the scenery. Even though it got a little chilly, it was a great vacation!" – Mark Sayger

"There were so many different aspects to this course that really kept it interesting: deep water, shallows, upstream, buoy turns, just to name a few. I felt I was sufficiently challenged – dead dog tired and wore out is probably a better description. I have learned that I have a long way to go. I already knew that, but these races, with all the great paddlers I raced behind, really brought that fact home. I have already started preparing for next year, though." – Don Walls

Race course was awesome! Paddlers paddled a course representing deep water, shallows, upstream and portages. Thanks to **Mandy and Matt Streib** for their huge efforts to put together, manage and promote the *Nationals*. The starts and timing were good. It was great to have the awards so quickly after the conclusion of the last race. The online registration was well worth the expense! It would be awesome to have single starts for C1 and C2 Men.

– Lynne Witte

The Bill Klebe Award for Good Sportsmanship: to Tom Thomas

Eligibility:

Any USCA member who has shown outstanding sportsmanship during the week of the USCA Nationals is eligible to receive this award. The award can be given to any competitor or non-competitor of the events.

Selection Committee:

Executive Committee, Executive Director, Representative from the St Charles Canoe Club, St Charles, IL

This year, **Bob Allen** submitted the following nomination before the Awards ceremony on Sunday:

“I would like to put **Tom Thomas** in for the *Bill Klebe Good Sportsmanship Award* for his concern about boats getting wrecked on the stumps in the above-the-portage section of the marathon race course. He obtained red flags and pins. He hammered them into the tops of the offending stumps for all

racers to see. He had to have spent over two hours doing this, and I am sure he saved several boats and occupants from damage and spoiled races.”

The Selection Committee approved the recommendation without hesitation.

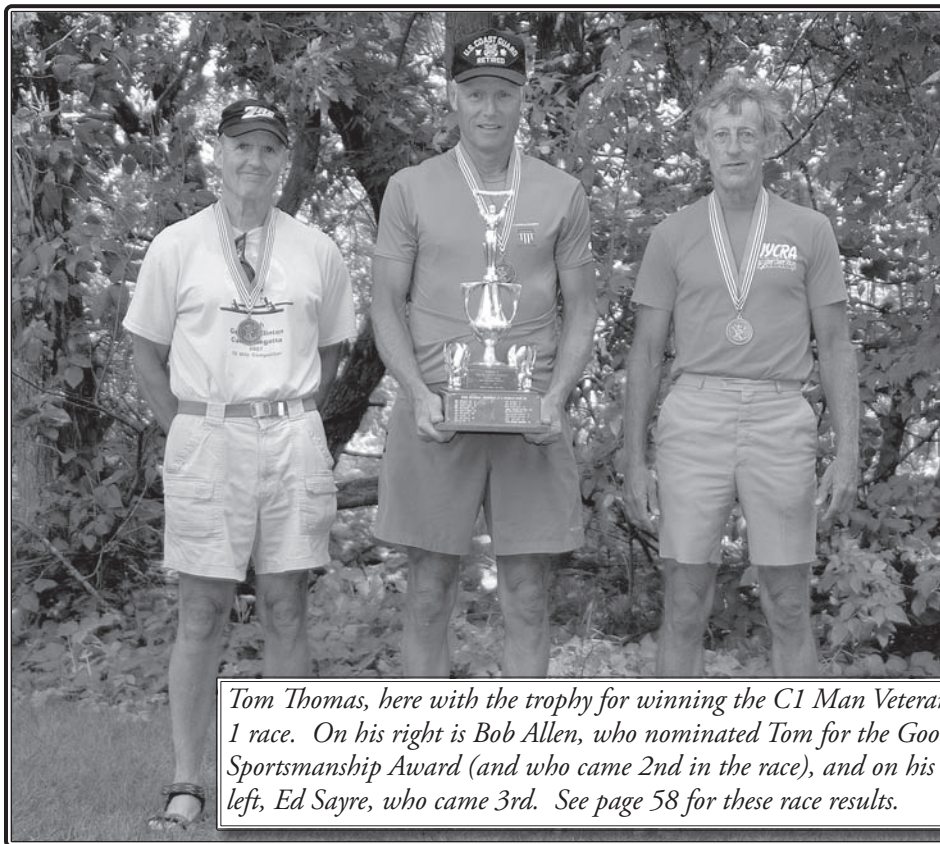
And the conferment was endorsed independently after the event in a letter to *Canoe News* from **Mike Herbert**, who had not been present when the award was announced on the last day of the races:

“Hello, I am writing about the 2008

USCA Nationals. I just wanted to thank publicly **Tom Thomas** from Indiana. A couple days before the long races started, he scouted out the course and on the lake portion there were some big stumps just under the water's surface in the direct racing line, that you could not see until you hit them. He spent time to mark them with flags to show where they were at – and there were a lot of them.

Every time we raced by them, I was very grateful to miss these hazards for they would have caused a significant amount of damage to many people's boats.”

– Mike Herbert, Rogers, Arkansas



Tom Thomas, here with the trophy for winning the C1 Man Veteran 1 race. On his right is Bob Allen, who nominated Tom for the Good Sportsmanship Award (and who came 2nd in the race), and on his left, Ed Sayre, who came 3rd. See page 58 for these race results.