

Susan L. Taft
(President of Flowing Water Press Corporation)

Susan is an entrepreneur with over thirty years of experience in a wide range of industries. She has been employed as a research chemist, engineer, consultant and business owner. Her experience is diverse, ranging from in highly technical environments in chemical research and electronics, to heavy industrial settings in the steel industry, to production of consumer food-products. This experience also encompasses all aspects of business development from start-up to product design and development, to sales and marketing. Susan also has valuable experiencing outsourcing a wide range of business services including product manufacturing.

TECHNICAL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

As a co-founder and owner of a custom plastics molding company, Susan developed the company through its startup — from concept through implementation including the development of a state-of-the-art plastics molding facility. She developed and orchestrated all start-up activities of this contract manufacturing business from equipment purchase and facility development to production control and marketing.

Susan was also a successful consultant for a Maryland-based consulting company. She analyzed and developed solutions for complex business problems, incorporating technology where appropriate. Susan proposed on and won multi-year, multi-million dollar projects in competitive bidding RFPs from Fortune 100 clients. As a project manager, she successfully managed those same multi-year, multi-million dollar projects, bringing in complex projects on-time and on-budget while maintaining high quality and client satisfaction.

OTHER BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Susan's knowledge and experience in the paddlesport industry spans more than ten years in design, manufacturing, sales, and marketing for a company she co-founded and owned. She is also the principle inventor for a patented kayak fitness machine.

Susan is also the author and co-publisher of *The River Chasers*, a history of American whitewater paddling, published in 2001 and accepted into the Library of Congress.

Using her knowledge of the paddlesport industry and its history as well as her business experience, Susan contracted her services to the International Whitewater Hall of Fame which included the successful implementation of the nomination, election, and induction processes for an international slate of nominees.

EDUCATION

Susan earned a B.S. in Chemistry (cum laude) from Kent State University. She is also a certified project manager.