A traditional all-rounder. Allows for a day long steady pace, and when built with a fine edge still allows for finesse strokes and subtle boat control. If a paddler were to insist on having just one paddle, this should be it.

Blade - 28" x 6" x 1/4"
Shaft - 1 1/8" x 1"
Grip  - 3" x 1 1/8"
130 sq "

OTTERTAIL
For precise control and a meditative pace. The ottertail enters the water quietly and is adaptable to a wide variety of strokes. It's longer reach makes it a friend of solo paddlers.

Blade - 29" x 5 3/4" x 1/4"
Shaft - 1 1/8" x 1"
Grip  - 3" x 1 1/8"
130 sq "

GUIDE
A powerful workhorse. Designed to move lots of water on demand. Suited for strong paddlers or those who simply want to get from here to there, fast.

Blade - 23" x 7 1/2" x 5/16"
Shaft - 1 1/8" x 1"
Grip  - 3" x 1 1/8"
140 sq "

BLADE VOLUME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>THICKNESS</th>
<th>SCALE</th>
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<td>1 inch</td>
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MATERIALS GUIDE

I use cherry, ash, basswood, walnut, maple and from time to time a lighter wood rather than a heavier one. Also, look for straight, strong grain, especially for paddle shafts.

As for glue, I use a two part epoxy for laminating the shafts and blades. That said, many paddle builders have had success with wood glues such as Titebond II or Titebond III.

For my part I like to finish a paddle with boiled linseed oil; it smells like an old boat house and has a wonderful soft touch. If you know you're going to be hard on your paddle, or if getting somewhere quickly matters to you, or strong and quick maneuvers are essential, stick to a thicker blade; 3/8's of an inch will work.

If you sit low in your boat, subtract an inch or two. If you sit high, add an inch of length - it will be a tad more forgiving. Smaller padders and children may wish to remove an inch of length - they will move more water, but you may fatigue earlier. Strong paddlers may wish to lengthen the blade by an inch or two. If you're a solo paddler you may wish to add an inch or two. If you're using a narrower canoe, you absolutely completely totally need to know that it will never add a great deal to your of peace of mind.

To determine length of a straight blade paddle, sit upright in a chair and measure the distance between the seat and the bridge of your nose; this equals the length of your shaft.

I'd say use what looks good, but keep in mind, a tight grained wood has a nicer feel on the hand. And, if given a choice, build from a lighter wood rather than a heavier one. Also, look for straight, strong grain, especially for paddle shafts.