GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187

THE EDDY LINE

VOLUME 54 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2019

Inside this Issue:

- *Conasauga River Trip Report - page 2*
- *Tennessee River Paddle Trail—page 4*
- *Nantahala Trip Report—page 4*
- *Smokey Mountain River Weekend—page 6*
- *Florida River Weekend trip report—page 6*

GCA Officers

President:
Lisa Haskell
lshkayaker@gmail.com
678.858.2012

Vice-President:
Carol Reiser
Creiser11@gmail.com
404.597.2128

Secretary/Eddy Line Editor:
Tammy Lea
eddylineeditor@gmail.com
404.786.5937

Treasurer:
Vince Payne
vincent.payne9354@gmail.com
678.343.5292

Other Board Members

Cruisemaster (Flat/Class I, II, III):
Berry Walker
bcwalker55@gmail.com
770.664.5024

Cruisemaster (III/IV):
James Wright
jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com
724.255.7914

River Protection Chair:
Dan MacIntyre
dmacintyre4@gmail.com
770.551.2747

Historian/Exploration Chair:
Roger Nott
678.316.4935

Mathis Dam at Lake Rabun
Photo courtesy of Jimmy Jones

Upper Conasauga Trip Report
February 16, 2019
Story and photos by Lisa Haskell

This was billed as an exploratory trip on the Lower Conasauga River. I posted the trip on the GCA website and ended up with nine adventurous people: Mary Ann Pruitt, Carol Reiser, Kelly Harbac, Jay Davis, Levi Edge, David Robinson, Tom Welander, Braylin Welander (Tom's seven year old son) and myself. As it turned out, Mary Ann and David had each run the river once before, years ago, at a much lower water level. Tom Welander, a last-minute addition to the group had also run it

before. However, it was still an exploratory trip for most of us. I spent some time the week before scouting the put-in and take out so that I would know where they were and how many cars would fit. I also made sure I located the bridge gauge so that we could check the water

level that day. In the morning we met up at the Cisco Baptist Church parking lot to consolidate cars before driving to the take out (there isn't much room for that on the side of the road). Then we drove to the Jack's Creek put in to start our trip. The day was cloudy with a high around 50 degrees. The river is the most difficult at the beginning and gets easier as the run continues. After the first six or so miles it is basically

flat water until the take out on Ball Play Road. At this day's level the river was very much like the Nantahala with long wave trains and surfing spots. There are two rapids which are more difficult than the others

and are probably III-/III at this level. The first one is called The Falls and is not too far past

(continued, page 3)

(Upper Conasauga, continued from page 2)

the put in. It is a series of ledges that can be boat scouted as you go. We ran this on the left, but watch out because there is a rock in the run out and you must go either left or right of it at the bottom. The second one is a bit further down the river. I ran it on river right and it worked but there are some rocks to avoid. From below it looked like it might have been better to go down river left but at today's water level there was a diagonal hole which you would want to miss. A bit further downstream, about the time you start to notice some hurricane damage to the trees, there is a surprising little rapid on the left.

The river was very pretty and lots of fun. The rapids were long and bouncy and everyone had a good time. Part way into the run there is some pink tape on river right near a path. This is the path to the private property take out - it is about one tenth of a mile in length. There were no private property or warning signs near the path by the river but I heard there have been problems with using this take out. Since we didn't want to cause any trouble we went three miles further downstream to a public take out on Ball Play Road.

Once you are on the flat water section and are approaching the take out there is a large island and the river splits to go around it. Stay to the right for the Ball Play Road take out. If you go left you will miss the take out and end up at the 411 bridge. Once you see the cars at the take out go a short distance downstream to some pink tape and there is an easy path to take off the river.

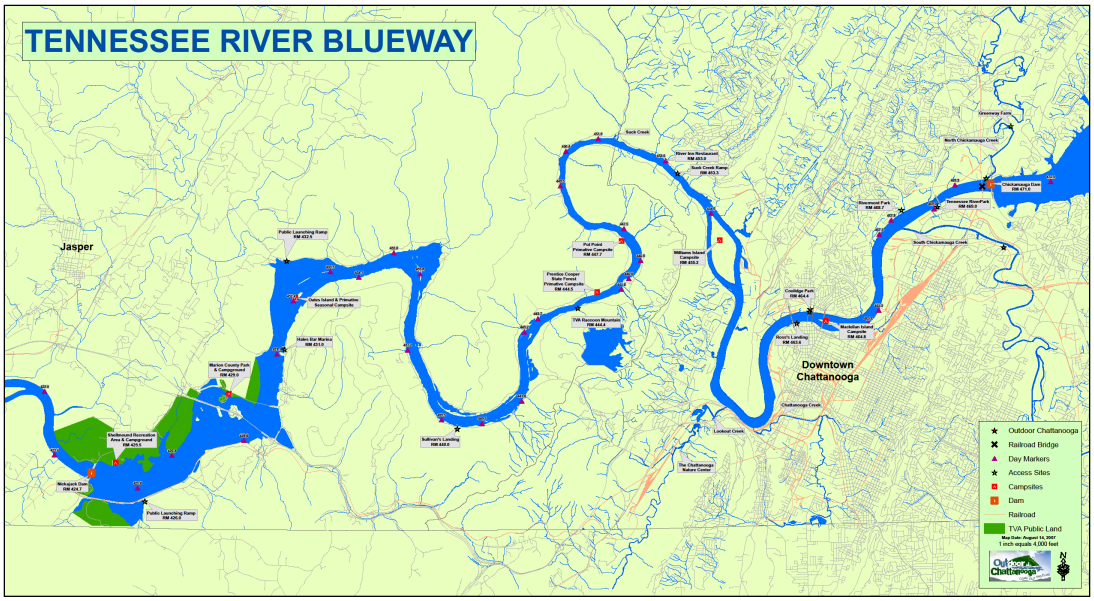
Five of us stopped at La Pueblito in Eton, Georgia for dinner on the way home.—*EL*

KEEP YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS CURRENT

Each month numerous "copies" of the pdf version of *The Eddy Line* bounce back due to bad or outdated email addresses. If an email to you bounces back, you will be deleted from the recipient list until we get an updated email address.

Upcoming Trip: Tennessee River Paddle Trail

For more information, or to sign up, contact Patrick Berry: patricksocial@yahoo.com or 404.216.2779—*EL*



www.ChattanoogaAudubon.org

Friday:
Drop vehicle and kayak at Tennessee River Park, mile marker 469.0 and we'll paddle down river to an island only accessible by water. We'll camp on Maclellan Island, mile marker 464.8.

Saturday:
We'll depart the island and make our way past the downtown 'Nooga skyline, around Mocassin Bend National Archeological District, Williams Island State Archeological Park and camp at Pot Point Primitve Campsite mile marker 447.7. Saturday mileage is about 17 miles.

Sunday:
We'll get on the water and head down river to Sullivan's Landing, past Oates Island and to our take-out of Hales Bar Marina mile marker 431.0. Sunday mileage is about 17 miles.

Other information:
You will need a longer kayak of 14' or more as well as camping gear and food for the duration of this trip. Marinas and put-ins exists along the way to replenish water. Shuttle info is based upon registrants. We'll split lodging evenly based upon paddlers.

Trip Report: Nantahala River at 3230 CFS, February 24, 2019

By Jimmy Jones

This weekend I tried to get a few friends interested in doing the Nantahala in a raft. It was running between 1800 and 2200 cubic feet per second on Friday. Normal flow is 700 to 800cfs. Dawn Katz responded that she wanted to go. She asked if it would be safe for her daughter who has not rafted yet. I told her it would be fine and Hailie could walk the falls if she didnt feel good

(continued, page 5)

(Nantahala trip report, continued from page 4)

about it. Sunday morning I checked the gauge and it was 3200+! The highest I had ever rafted it was at 1500ish. I got to the NOC, and after seeing Catherine Kennedy and receiving her advice to run right at Patton's to miss the hole and hit the biggest thing you see at the falls square, we set off to shuttle. Catherine also said we needed to at least look at the Upper because it would be impressive.

We stopped at the falls and looked at the line. After that we drove up the highway and stopped at the Patton's Overlook to survey the line. We enjoyed looking at the Upper, but knowing we didn't want to scare our first-timer, we ended up at the private boater launch. We got the raft blown up tight and then geared up. After running down the straight area after the launch and working right I saw the line, and got my crew to put us on a good line to run between the holes and line up for the next little rapid. Hailie was hooked. After that she definitely wanted to run the falls.

We worked our way down the river, and played some at the same time. It looked unfamiliar, yet really fun. There were lots of bigger waves, and holes, but not many rocks. We ran over the big rock on river left at Delabar's , but it was under water. We ended up paddling successfully through the hole behind it. The undercut below the ledges was mostly under water. At the bottom of spin cycle/ chamber of waves, the wave almost pulled us back in for a surf but our momentum carried us over it.

As we approached The Bump, the river was beginning to get choppy and holey again. You could tell that there was some gradient there. We paddled through that and then we passed the area where the chicken beach above the falls should have been, but alas, it had been transformed into a nice eddy with stairs descending into it. It reminded me of a swimming pool. We worked our way down the entrance to the falls and I spotted my mark and we paddled and nailed the first wave. It reminded me of Tablesaw on the Ocoee, but with bigger waves perhaps. I havent seen Tablesaw from the guide position in my raft so I can't say for sure. After we got through the next couple of waves I asked everyone to stop and breathe knowing that we needed to catch an eddy soon. We rode the waves and were happy with our line and then caught the eddy and the trip was over. It was less than 70 minutes from when we slid into the water. It was a good run and I enjoyed seeing it at 3230cfs. I would definitely run it again at this level with a good crew. I am happy that Hailie had a great experience and wants to raft again.—*EL*

Photo courtesy of Dawn Katz

Cherokee Smokey Mountain Weekend March 23 and 24, 2019

TRIP COORDINATOR IS ROGER NOTT. Call or text 678.316.4935

Saturday - Oconaluftee River, class I-II (III) intermediate. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Great Smoky Mountains National Park Oconaluftee Visitors' Center (Pioneer Village)on US Hwy. 441 in Cherokee.

Sunday - Raven Fork (class II-III, advanced intermediate). Meet at Oconaluftee Visitors' Center at 10 a.m.

This was a regular annual GCA event from 1980-1999, after which the Cherokee Reservation authorities closed to paddlers most the portions of these two streams within the Quala Reservation. They are now open again. You can register for either or both of these trips. Please contact Roger Nott for further details, including camping and motel resources. This photo is looking upstream from Smokemont Campground Bridge, our frequent Oconaluftee put-in. -- *EL*

GCA FLORIDA WINTER PADDLE 2019
Story and photos by Lisa Haskell

In spite of the cold weather the GCA once again ventured south to Florida for the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. We had a total of twenty five people who participated in the event. Some paddled all four days and some paddled just part of the weekend. Many of us stayed at the Chassahowitzka River Campground where we have based our operations for the last several years, but there were a few people who opted to stay at local hotels or a different campground. The weather was much better this year than last year. We had a couple of fairly cold nights but really nothing below the forties this year. We also got lucky with a couple of really nice paddling days where we had temperatures in the low to mid seventies. The only time it rained was at night so that worked out very well. We drove down to Florida on Thursday to set up camp and then paddled the next four days. On Friday we had two paddling options, the rest of the weekend we all paddled the same river.

On Friday my group paddled a section of the Withlacoochee River near Dunnellon, Florida. We had nineteen people paddling that day and it was a lovely day on the river. It was sunny with a high of around seventy degrees. This was a blackwater run with lots of cypress trees and bird life. Citrus Blue Hole spring is located on this run and we stopped at the spring for lunch and to look around.

(continued, page 7)

(Florida weekend, continued from page 6)

We actually took off the river at a local restaurant called Stumpknocker's. Since we made reservations for the group to eat dinner there they let us leave our cars in their parking lot so we didn't even have to drive anywhere to eat dinner. The food was delicious and they did a really good job handling a large group.

On Saturday we paddled the Hillsborough River in Thonotosassa, Florida. We had nineteen people on the trip this day - we put on the river at John B. Sargeant park and paddled down to Trout Creek Park. We had paddled this river last year but the weather was terrible - rainy, overcast and very cold so we saw very little wildlife on the trip. This year the weather was sunny and in the mid 70s and we saw many alligators and birds along our way. After paddling, eleven of us stopped for Mexican food on the way back to the campground.

On Sunday we paddled Silver River from the spring head down to Ray's Wayside Park. We only had twelve paddlers on Sunday because of the weather. It was sunny but it was only in the fifties, and the forecast was for a lot of wind. The twelve of us who went had a lovely day - the wind was a bit of a problem at the spring head where it was very wide but for most of the day the wind caused very little trouble. In fact, it was mostly a tail wind

so between the current and the wind we made really good time down the river with very little effort. There were a couple of manatees at the put in and we saw a lot of birds, a few alligators and one monkey. According to the park personnel, the lone monkey we saw used to be the alpha of the troop. He was challenged and defeated a couple of years ago and now is all by himself. The last two years on Silver River I have only seen the one monkey so my theory is that the new alpha has moved the troop to another location. This is unfortunate for us because they were so much fun to watch. It was also really sad to see the poor fellow all by himself. We actually ate at Stumpknocker's again on the way home since we were driving right past it.

(continued, page 8)

(Florida weekend, continued from page 7)

On Monday my group paddled the Chassahowitzka River. The weather that day was sunny and windy with a high in the mid - ifites. We had twelve people paddling today. We were paddling at low tide but the water levels were up because of the rain so we were able to go almost everywhere we wanted. We saw lots of manatees in the ar-

ea right by the launch site. After watching them for a while we paddled over to the Seven Sisters area and were able to get out and stand on the rocks which form part of the springs. At high tide you can paddle over

these rocks and look down into the springs. After looking at the Seven Sisters we decided to see if we could make it to the Crack. Even though the tide was fairly low we were able to make it all the way to the Crack. We paddled most of the way then beached the kayaks and walked the last little bit to the spring. We ate lunch and took a break there. I managed to talk Mary Ann Pruitt and Carol Reiser in to swimming in the spring with me

since we had our dry suits on! When we finished at the Crack, part of the group went back to the campground and the other part decided to go exploring. We paddled out and saw the remains of posts which formed a log pull across the river. It was built in the early 1900s and used by logging companies to pull logs across the river. You can only see them at extreme low tide though. We then decided to check out some of the creeks which flow into the Chaz. Unfortunately, with the water being low we couldn't get too far back in the creeks. After paddling, ten of us ate at Cracker's Restaurant for dinner.

I had a good time this year and I hope everyone else did too. I'll be hoping for warm weather next year! - *EL*

TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

March 10	Peachtree City Roll Practice	see the GCA website for details
March 23-24	Smokey Mountain River Weekend	contact Roger Nott at 678.316.4935
March 31	GCA Spring Membership paddle	see the GCA website for details

Please see the GCA Calendar for details, updates, and to sign up at www.gapaddle.com. For any questions or class suggestions, e-mail **gapaddletraining@gmail.com**.

Thinking of joining a paddling trip?

When deciding to join a GCA trip, whether an "official" trip posted on the website, or a pop-up trip posted on the Facebook page, please keep the following bit of river etiquette in mind:

Always check with the trip coordinator before inviting a guest to come along on the trip with you, especially if your guest is an inexperienced paddler. This is to insure the skill level of your guest matches the targeted skill level of the group. Many pop-up trips will not have safety boaters., and it's considered rude to expect the other paddlers in the group to be responsible for an unexpected paddler. Please don't put the trip coordinator in the uncom-

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — email Cruisemasters James Wright at jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com or Berry Walker at bcwalker55@gmail.com

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS
Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.
Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 ripples; new paddlers can learn basic river techniques.
Trained Beginner - moving water with Class 1-2 rapids; basic strokes and bracing skills needed.
Intermediate - rapids up to Class 3; eddying and ferrying skills needed; kayakers need solid roll.
Advanced - rapids up to Class 4; excellent boat control and self-rescue skills required.

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.
Training Trips are a combination of recreation and training designed for those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.
Canoe Camping Trips are multi-day trips, generally on flat or mild water, with at least one night of camping. For details on a scheduled trip, call the trip coordinator. To arrange a trip, call Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.
To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Email Cruisemaster James Writght at jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com or Berry Walker at bcwalker55@gmail.com. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flatwater to Class 5 whitewater. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!
Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Boating is prohibited above the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.
Roll Practice: see gapaddle.com for information.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to those who support GCA financially by advertising in *The Eddy Line*. Help those who help us — patronize our advertisers. And when you do, let them know you saw their *Eddy Line* ad and appreciate their support. Thanks!

Keeping In Touch

To contact the GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, send an e-mail to gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Website: Information about GCA, forms (including membership application and GCA waiver form), a link to the GCA Store and links to *Eddy Line* advertisers are all at http://www.gapaddle.com.

Facebook: Visit the GCA Facebook page for photos, video, trip reports, or to join an upcoming impromptu trip.

ALL ABOUT THE EDDY LINE

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in pdf format. To subscribe, contact Vincent Payne at 404.629.5376 or Vincent.payne9354@gmail.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

Submissions/Advertising: All submissions and advertising should be sent to *The Eddy Line*, at: **EddyLineEditor@gmail.com**.

The Eddy Line, © 2019, is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., publication address: 9354 Grapevine Drive, Winston, GA 30187.

THE EDDY LINE

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 611
Winston, Georgia 30187

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
www.gapaddle.com

The purpose of the GCA is to have fun and promote safety while paddling.

GCA is a member-operated paddling club with over 500 family and corporate memberships comprising more than 1500 Individuals. Canoeists and Kayakers of all ages and paddling abilities are equally welcome. Some of our mutual interests include whitewater river running, creeking and playboating, river and lake touring, sea kayaking, paddle camp outs and competition and racing activities. We espouse conservation, environmental and river access issues as well as boating safety and skills development. Group paddling, training and social activities of all kinds are conducted throughout the year thanks to the volunteer efforts of our many members and friends. Membership is NOT limited to Georgia residents.