



The River Chicks

The River Chicks Paddle Again!

It was great day to be out on the river on Memorial Day. Wendy, Linda and I (Reta) headed to Larry's Drive-in this morning and paddled up Mill Creek (my personal favorite) at approximately 9:35am. Here is a little bit about how are day went.

LAUNCH: We put in at Larry's Drive-in. #1 problem for me was that someone curbed there dog several times but forgot to pick up the curbing Yuk! The wooden ramp at Larry's is no longer in use. We later found out that a boat backed down the ramp and ripped it up. We strongly DO NOT recommend anyone taking the chance and launching from this ramp. The "Caution" yellow tape is up, but you know us sometimes. We could visibly see some of the railroad spikes/nails protruding out, so don't risk tearing up your boat or injuring yourself. So, Linda and Wendy went off the side and did okay and I went off the front where the concrete is and did okay. Upon return from our trip everyone did the same thing and it went well.

THE PADDLE UP: What a gorgeous day to be on the river! The paddle upriver was sweet. The bird serenaded us pretty much the entire way. It wasn't hot and it wasn't cool; it was just right. The bugs even left us alone. When we first got into the open body of the ocean the waves kicked up slightly but things were good. When we turned the corner and headed under the bridge on Creek Road things really mellowed out. Right before the bridge to our left was the "Great Blue Heron" going for a morning stroll. We didn't rush anything it was just a real leisure paddle that we thoroughly enjoyed. Onward and upward toward Wiggins Road. Parts of the river was like glass and looking into a mirror. The reflection of the trees from the water had that WOW factor.

Anyone who's ever been on Mill Creek sort of knows things get a little tricky after you paddle under the bridge on Wiggins. Well, you know we did. The river narrowed in some places, the sun peeked through the trees at the right point because the view was beautiful. However, it appears that after some storm(s) or it could have been those days we had really heavy winds, nonetheless there are several large/long trees that are now leaning and bridged from one side of the river to the other and may eventually fall. We may want to consider taking them down before they make their way down themselves. Also, there are quite a bit a big sticks, twigs, etc. that we may want to consider getting out of the river. All this goings on is closer to the Lake Road end of the paddle. Once again, we could not actual get up to the bridge at Lake Road because of down trees but we were close enough that we could see the cars go by.

THE CAMP SITE / PLATFORM: We did stop at the double platform and she was gorgeous! The view from the river was incredible. Before I go any further, we could not have done a better job with the signage. I love it! Very visible, easy to read, eye level for paddlers--good job! However, the trick for me and Wendy was getting out. For those of us who have very little upper body strength the bottom lip is too high. Thank you Linda for always being there for us on these occasions. The platforms are really really nice. So, nice that we considered spending a night there. The sun shined ever so perfectly between the trees. Just as we perched up on the platform guess who showed up? Our friend the prothornotary warbler. We got an up close and personal look. Also, we viewed the survey box and there were (I think) four in there. We probably spent 20 minutes on the platforms. We could hear the cars from the road but you could easily block them out.

THE PADDLE BACK: Nice paddle on the way back. Again, we took our time. We were out a little over three hours total for this trip and probably paddled about 4 1/2 miles. However, on the way back when we were approached the ocean the whitecaps on the water were twirling and rolling over and the wind was whipping. It was like we entered the twilight zone. We fought a good fight and made it back. HOWEVER, it was not without taking on some water and using a lot of arm muscle.

BIRDS and other: We heard many many birds but only saw four: Prothornotary warbler, Great Blue Heron, finch, and a black bird of some sort. We could identify the crow and woodpecker sounds the rest were foreign. Saw some beaver work, a really pretty wild pink rose, and a fern. And of course the fish jumped and made their appearance.