

# SMALL RIVER CANOE ADVENTURES OF WISCONSIN

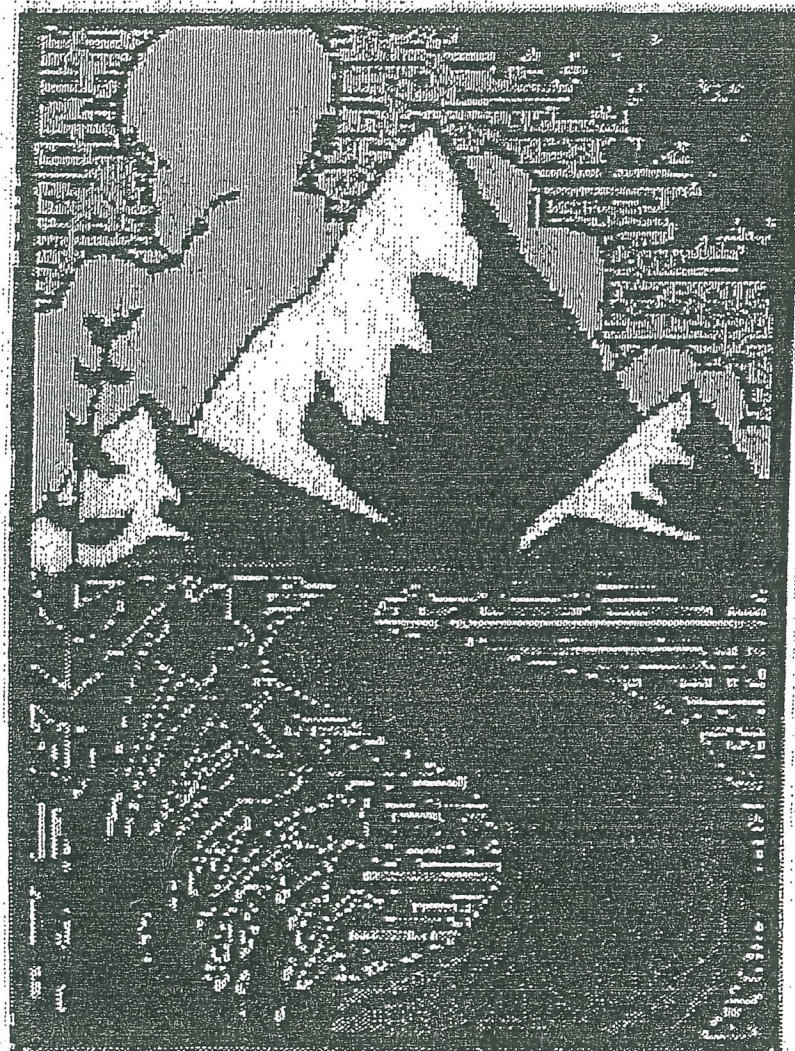
*by Frank F. Piraino*

**UPDATED WITH 14 EXCITING NEW RIVERS TO EXPLORE!**  
**22 MORE DAY TRIPS DESCRIBED PLUS SHORT ESSAYS FOR EACH**

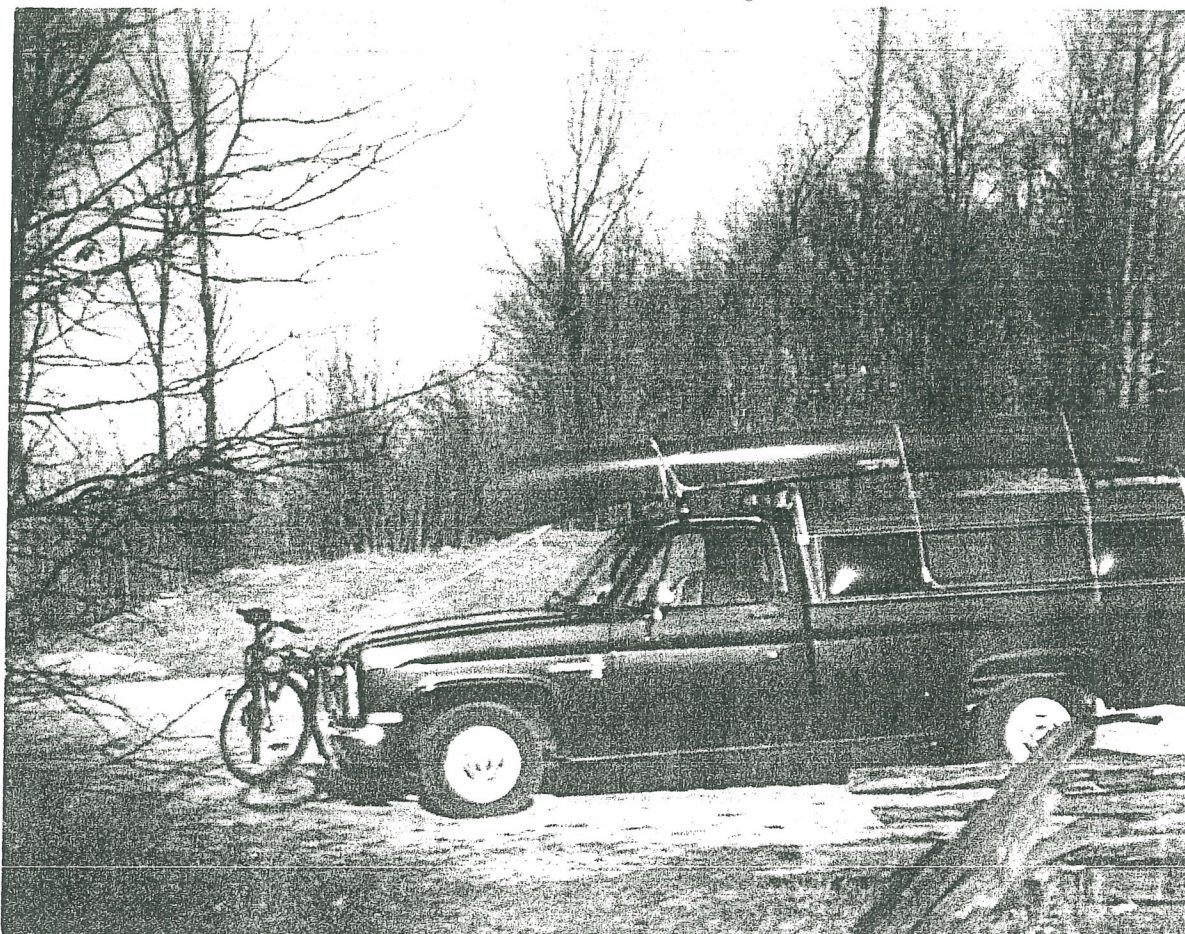




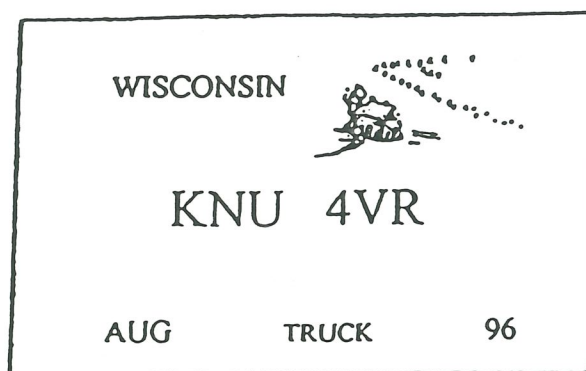
*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as a crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the lamb. And on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Rev. Ch 22, 1-2*







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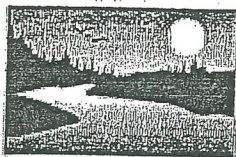
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## DEDICATION TO ...

All you kindred spirits out there who just like myself get goose-bumply all over every time you shove off from shore as you begin another new adventure down a lovely little stream or dancing small river you are paddling for the first time. Just the sheer joy of it! The joy of the peaceful sounds of the water trickling off your paddle, the singing birds and frogs, the breeze rustling through the trees, the drip drop of gentle rains. The inspiring sights of blue sky and puffy clouds mixed with the colors of overhanging maples, birch, oak and evergreens, the guardians of the shoreline. The heartwarming lovely wildflowers, darting butterflies, patrolling and sometimes hitch-hiking dragonflies, the serene grassy meadows. The spine-tingling rapids, the winds, oh the winds. The brief fleeting glimpses of animals scurrying through the woods, some that dunk themselves out of sight along the water's edge, others that pop their curious heads up in alarm to see who is disturbing their happy home, startled fish that flee your presence. If you dig this stuff then this book is for you, It's the thrill of adventure combined with enjoying firsthand the beauty of God's creation and by doing so we are in fellowship with Him for by Him are all things created and for His pleasure they are created.

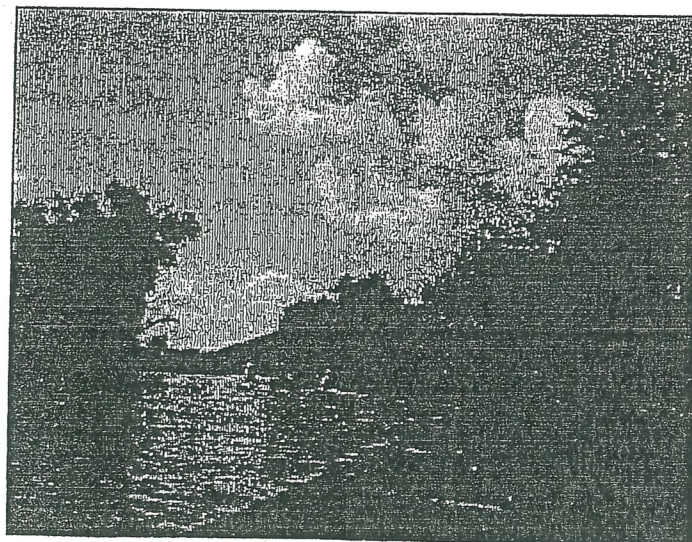
## THANKS TO ...



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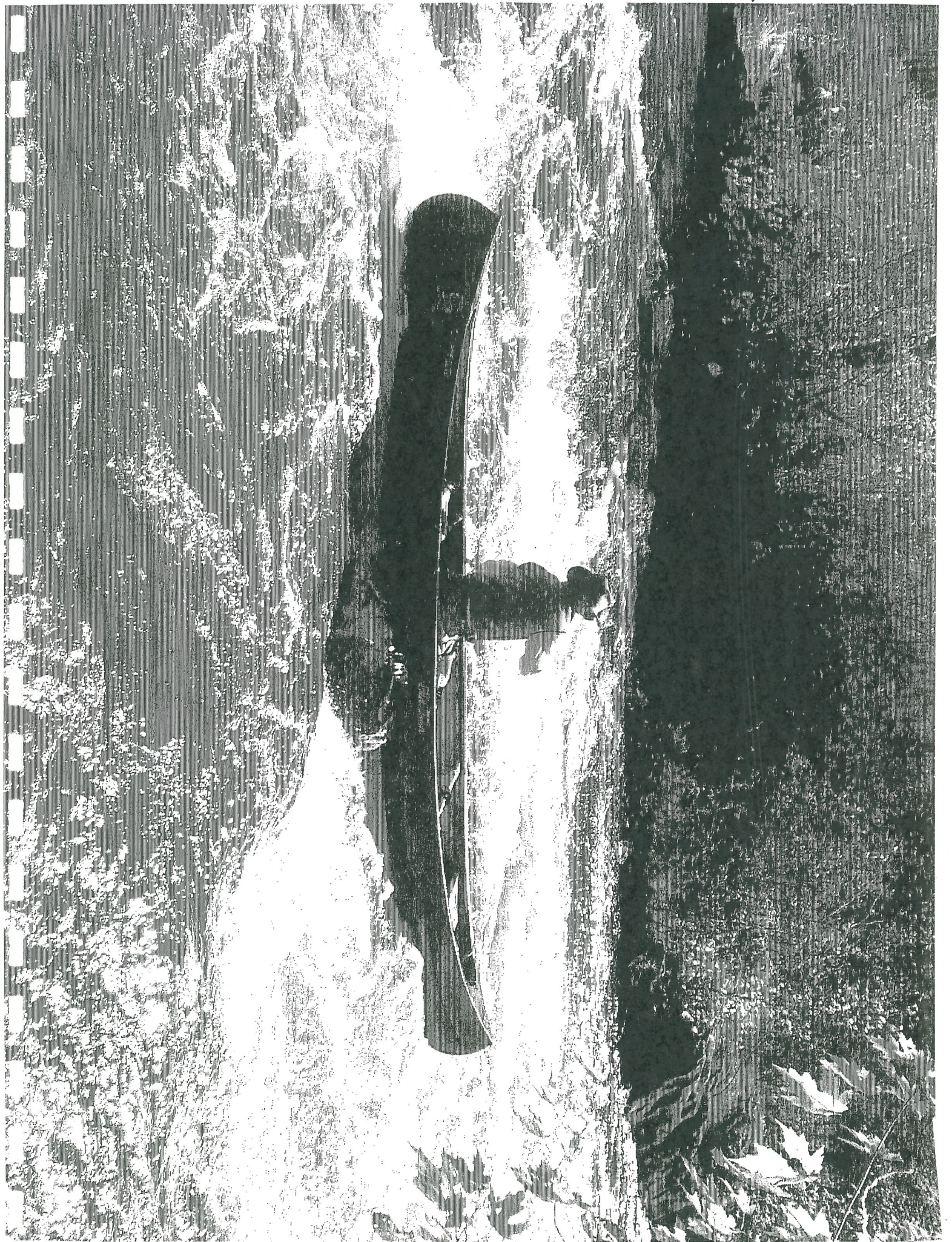
# WISCONSIN





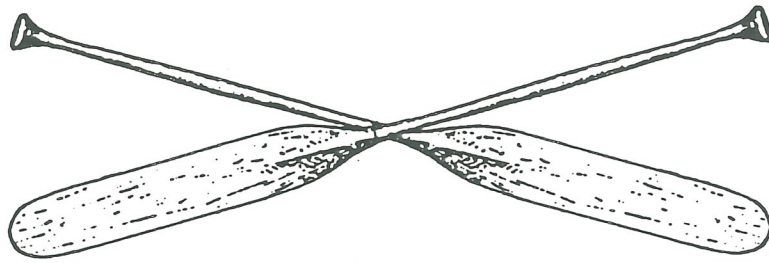








**SMALL RIVER CANOE ADVENTURES  
OF WISCONSIN**





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*by Frank F. Piraino*

## **Madison Area:**

Baraboo; Bark; Beaver Dam; Duck Creek; Fox; Grand; Grant; Honey Creek; Milwaukee, east branch; Pine; Puchyan; Rock; Sugar; White

## **Central Wisconsin, Quietwater:**

Eau Claire, south fork; Manitiwoc, south branch; Neenah Creek; Rat; Willow Creek; Wolf; Yellow

## **Central Wisconsin, Whitewater:**

Eau Claire, north fork; Big Eau Pleine; Embarrass, middle branch; Halls Creek; Little Wolf; Morrison Creek

## **Northern Wisconsin, Quietwater:**

Bear; Deerskin; Kinnickinnic; Moose; Oconto; Oconto, south branch; Pine; Squaw Creek; Squirrel; Tomahawk; Trout; White

## **Northern Wisconsin, Whitewater:**

Brunet; Pelican; Peshtigo; Pine; Prairie; Big Rib; Somo; Thornapple



## Introduction

**Another** Wisconsin canoeing guidebook??! Why??!!

This guide is intended for use primarily by those seeking to find a close to home wilderness-like canoeing adventure down generally untraveled streams and small rivers where they can enjoy unspoiled natural beauty with as little sign of human development as possible, encounter wildlife but not encounter any others along the way not even those who might feel the same way they do strangely enough, all for the joy and contentment of solitude and thrill of adventure in the great outdoors if only for a day or two or just a few hours.

I can honestly say that not even once did I encounter another canoe while traversing these waters although two or three times I met some whitewater enthusiasts at landings along more well known spots such as above Little Falls gorge on the Little Wolf and below Prairie Dells and sometimes briefly encountered early spring fisherman in motorboats in broad flatwater areas near my put-in or takeout, but these occurrences were very infrequent and you can be sure that you will very likely be undisturbed and alone along your way on these charming excursions.

For several years I concentrated on canoeing most every major known river in Wisconsin I could learn of from the ample supply of canoeing guidebooks available, seeking especially, long scenic stretches of natural shoreline and usually ignoring heavily developed runs. It always seemed like the best trips had the most traffic and were usually catered to by canoe liveries with shuttle service. Being passed by up to a dozen canoes at a time somehow seemed to lessen the wilderness experience. So I decided to set out and find my own canoeing treasures where I could get away from the rest by putting my popular guidebooks away and scouring every page of my Wisconsin Atlas searching for small rivers, streams and creeks with a lot of green background surrounding them and as few as possible roads alongside them then simply visiting prospective put-in and take-out sites and giving it a try if it looked doable and this simple but hopefully useful guide is what I came up with. There are other canoeable sections of some of the rivers described here that are not included because they didn't seem to fit the criteria of being either secluded enough or adventurous enough or are already covered in another book.

With only a couple of exceptions these trips have not been described in any of the half dozen or so excellent and well known Wisconsin canoeing guidebooks available and generally seem only known and run just occasionally by local residents. Although a few of them may have been mentioned briefly in U.S. Forest service or recreational camping literature, those descriptions I've sometimes found to be brief to a fault and on occasion erroneous to either a huge pain or great delight!

For sure the great majority of them are not catered to by rental and shuttle services and most likely won't be in the future either if they remain in their present condition because these waters are simply either too narrow with fallen trees blocking passage or too rocky



and shallow most of the time to please both the customer who doesn't like dealing with difficult portages or jarring, bumping, scraping and walking the canoe through bouldery fast water or the business owner who doesn't want his canoes wrecked! The slow water rural marsh trips described here are probably both too inconspicuous and too uninteresting for business concerns.

That leaves these wonderful trips then for the enjoyment of true lovers of these places like you and I who are willing to endure some hardship if necessary to experience them and if you float them you will probably love them and surely if you love them you will help preserve them from development and protect them from pollution by voicing your concerns on their behalf to politicians, community and business leaders, the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Forest Service. If this guide can help raise an army of concerned citizens to help protect Wisconsin's small rivers it will have been worth it!

There are no river maps with this guide and I rarely if ever brought one along with me or felt I had to with few exceptions. These are mostly easy one day trips and usually, careful study of the route from my trusty Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme Mapping of Freeport, Maine, was all I needed together with of course checking out the take-out in person first which was usually a bridge, a very easy to recognize landmark for even a carefree inattentive soul. Boat landings are usually conspicuous too. Investigating bridges and access points in between beforehand is always a good idea and sometimes very helpful. If in doubt you can draw a general map of the route yourself from the atlas and keep it dry in a one or two gallon zip lock bag. Atlas page numbers and sections are listed in the guide for each trip. The Atlas itself has become very popular and widely available across the state - might as well use it. Sometimes local convenience stores, bait shops, campgrounds and resorts, tourist information centers and chambers of commerce have helpful county and recreational maps. State Forest and National Forest maps are very useful for canoeing streams through those areas and are readily available from DNR and U.S. Forest Service offices in the vicinity.

Always have a good idea of what roads are nearby and what direction and approximate distance from the river they are. Be sure to bring along a compass, extra clothes and food and water, raingear, flashlight, first aid kit, spare paddle and duct tape for temporary hull repairs just in case an unexpected mishap occurs and possibly leaves you injured or stranded overnight. It never happened to me but I was always prepared for it for peace of mind sake. Make sure you have plenty of daylight to complete your trip with several hours to spare. Make a habit of starting early so you can have plenty of time to relax and enjoy yourself without rushing to the takeout to beat sundown.

The whitewater ratings from one canoe guidebook to another seem to vary sometimes by as much as one full grade when describing the very same rapids depending on whether the author is either a whitewater expert or a recreational canoeist and of course are dependent upon water levels. The whitewater ratings in this guide are determined from the perspective of a cautious recreational canoeist using a recreational canoe and if they



error it's probably on the side of safety. This is not a guidebook for whitewater canoeing it just happens to have some present. Generally, intermediate whitewater skills are very sufficient for any rapids found on these trips. Scout to be safe and be very alert above the few falls and trouble spots that are mentioned. If you lack good whitewater skills there is outstanding training available from certified instructors at several paddling schools in Wisconsin: Rutabaga's Canoe & Kayak Outdoor Programs, 220 W. Broadway, Madison, WI 53716, (608) 223-9300; Whitewater Specialty, N3894 HWY 55, White Lake, WI 54491, (715) 882-5400 and Nicolet College Summer Institute, Box 518, Rhinelander, WI 54501, (715) 365-4451. Among the very best of self instruction whitewater books of which there are many is my favorite - Path of the Paddle by Bill Mason. It has superb illustrations and descriptions of all the necessary, basic whitewater strokes and maneuvers and there are also fine demonstration videos by the same author to compliment it.

Since March and April is when I like to canoe marsh areas to observe waterfowl and May and June I like to float-fish, the water levels present at those times are reflected in the guide. Hint - a clue about where to try fishing. The travel times are an approximation in hours based on paddling at a casual pace of about two or three miles an hour with time allowed for one or two brief rests. I generally completed the route in less time than listed when I paddled through continuously and longer when I was fishing or birding. Heading downstream there is only one right bank (RB) and one left bank (LB) and I usually put in or take out at a bridge which may or may not, usually not on these small rivers, have a developed landing (Ldg) or actual boat launch (BT Ldg).

While canoeing the small rivers of this guide please don't make campfires along the shore - they scar the land, don't litter, pick up litter you find. If you must go ashore treat it gently, leave no sign of your visit and don't trespass!

On most any of these trips, depending on the habitat, you are likely to encounter several of many common wildlife species such as deer, songbirds, muskrat, beaver, mink, turtles, ducks, herons, hawks, woodpeckers, woodchuck, cranes, geese, singing frogs in spring, melodious warblers from mid May to mid June, trout, bass and northern and occasionally experience less common sightings of otters, turkeys, owl, secretive shorebirds, snake, cormorant, terns, snipe, eagle, osprey, swans, porcupine, skunk, loon, sturgeon, musky, walleye and possibly if you're lucky and go often enough - bear, coyote, wolf, fisher, marten, fox, bobcat, cougar??, yellow-headed blackbird and trumpeter swan. I have seen all of the above in Wisconsin (except cougar) while canoeing or hiking the last five years but did not mention a lot of them in the guide since some like deer and muskrat are present nearly everywhere and others were seen only because of random chance, weather conditions, alertness or lack of it. I tried to especially note areas that could be relied on in early spring for good waterfowl observation, the early morning, enchanting aerial displays and sounds of breeding snipe, high crane densities and in late spring, good birding for songbirds and warblers and anyplace or time I saw an otter which are always delightful to observe. Occasionally you may get a picturesque glimpse of an old, large



white pine or fine stand of hemlock, cedar or spruce on some of the northern trips, a fragrant reminder of what most of northern Wisconsin once looked like.

Paddling quietly will probably help increase your odds of observing wildlife. Avoid banging the gunwales with your paddle and if you're not already familiar with it, learn how to do the Indian stroke which quietly keeps the paddle in the water continuously by swiveling the blade through repeated circles. Paddling right handed use your left hand on the handle in a motion similar to untightening an outdoor hose valve and let the shaft revolve freely through your right hand held just above the blade on the return stroke against the current. Using this stroke I was able to either sneak up closely on animals I saw or jolted in great surprise by those I didn't! Usually it was deer sleeping in or a shorebird hiding in the tall grass along the bank and sometimes the sudden splash was from an otter, beaver, muskrat or something I never saw!

I purposefully did not mention anything about fishing the rivers of this guide although I did fish a lot of them, being infected with this incurable disease as are many but I worry about harming an already stressed vulnerable fishery by overfishing and the unnecessary taking of a limited fragile resource and naturally like any fisherman I don't want to divulge my favorite spots! I generally prefer the larger rivers not described here for fishing but there are a few gems! Most serious fishermen in this state already know what rivers and streams have good fishing and for what species and certainly there is no lack of informative fishing literature for those who don't. Suffice it to say that basically the rivers with rapids, riffles, boulders, deep pools and holes and wood cover will be the best ones to try and this guide will help you determine which ones those are and plan a float trip if you haven't already done so because you weren't sure what the conditions were like two or three miles downstream from the bridge where you usually waded close by. Good luck and please practice catch and release using only artificials.

Although these are all primarily one day small river trips keep in mind that several of them have the possibility of being the first intimate leg of an extended classic big river wilderness-like canoe vacation adventure - some of the best in the midwest!

The Bear River will take you into the Manitiwosh and shortly after into huge Flambeau Flowage which has a predominantly pristine shoreline and an abundance of fine island and shore primitive campsites and will take several days to explore. From there you can portage the dam and head down the challenging whitewater of the famous and beautiful Flambeau River and find excellent wilderness campsites plentiful along the way, about a week to Flambeau Lodge on Big Falls Flowage.

The Moose River trip will take you to Moose Lake where you can catch the West Fork of the Chippewa which channels south through the east end of gigantic and mostly preserved in a wild state, Chippewa Flowage. Up to a week can be spent exploring this massive water body if you are daring enough! It also has a good supply of primitive island campsites dispersed throughout its confines to enjoy. Then, or instead, you could continue on down the Chippewa River for several days of outstanding canoeing through



some fair rapids and find excellent scenery and shore camping along the way. Take out at Bruce or continue on to the Chippewa - Flambeau junction.

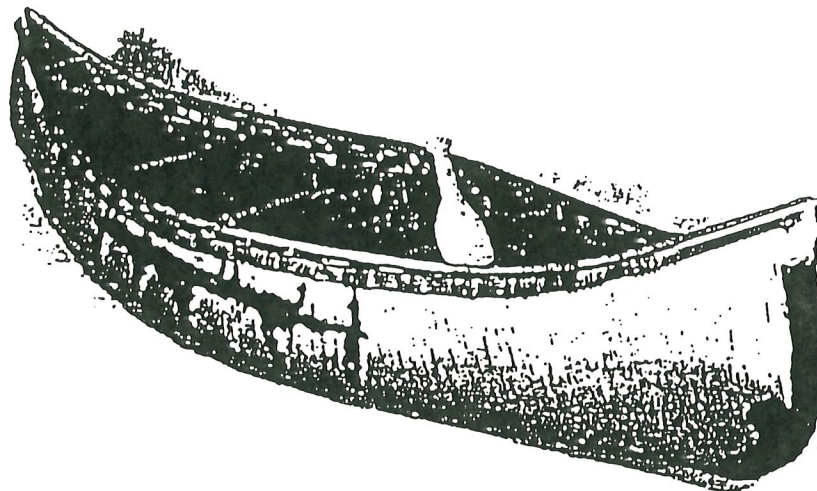
After the Squirrel River empties into the Tomahawk as described you can proceed down the pristine upper part of this quiet, secluded river to the beautiful wilderness shores, islands and back bays of sprawling Willow Flowage where you can find a primitive island campsite waiting. Explore this beautiful lake for a couple days then portage around the dam and float for a couple days more past the wooded shores of the Tomahawk's now broader, serene flatwater interrupted twice by rapids. You may find lodging at a resort at the highway Y bridge and possibly a tent site with a great swimming hole below the Swamp Lake Road bridge. Take out at Prairie Rapids Road bridge just above Lake Nokomis.

The Lower Wisconsin River is widely heralded as being one of the premier, long, uninterrupted, free-flowing wilderness camping canoe trips of the region with its many inviting sandbars and although it doesn't officially begin until after the last dam at Sauk City, the stretch above from Castle Rock Lake is also good canoeing and includes spectacular Wisconsin Dells and downstream from there it borders the Aldo Leopold Reserve and the Pine Island Wildlife Area. You could probably find camping at several campgrounds or resorts along the way for the few days necessary to reach Sauk City after you enter Castle Rock Lake from the Yellow River as described. Below Sauk City dam you can float unencumbered riding swift flatwater for 90 miles down to Wyalusing State Park on the Mississippi. Please be careful of wind and motorboats on these large flowages and wear your life vest!

For a good description of these trips get these books if you don't already have them: Wisconsin's North Central Canoe Trails, available from Wisconsin Trails Magazine; Whitewater, Quietwater by Bob and Jody Palzer; Best Canoe Trails of Southern Wisconsin, by Michael E. Duncanson.

Rutabaga and Carl's Paddlin' Canoe Stores in Madison, libraries, sport shops and gift shops in northern counties are all good sources to find these books. Fishing Hotspots makes superb waterproof maps of Flambeau, Chippewa and Willow Flowages and they are a must for canoeing these large places - great for navigation and finding island campsites which are clearly marked. Available by calling 1-800-338-5957.







Stream: **Baraboo River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 42,D2

Put-in: Strawbridge Rd bridge

Take-out: Dutch Hollow Rd bridge

Travel Time: 5-7

Features: Difficult, strenuous trip but excellent scenery and good opportunity for viewing wildlife through long undeveloped stretch of lovely Buckwheat Valley. High scenic bluffs with pines and cedars. Songbirds, hawks, turkeys, cranes, wood duck, beaver, turtles all common. Can combine with superb bike shuttle along the 400 state bike trail through scenic wetlands.

Cautions, Hazards: Many fallen trees and logs along high muddy banks through narrow channel. Four portages around log jams plus must pull canoe over logs 1/2 dozen times to avoid portaging. Handsaw may be very helpful.

Take-out: BT Ldg, Lavalle Millpond

Travel Time: 6-8

Features: Much easier canoeing with still good scenery of high bluffs with cedars and fine stand of pines reminiscent of northwoods. Pass by one or two farms. Bike rental, cafe and bar at takeout. County Park nearby.

Cautions, Hazards: Channel wide and deep below Dutch Hollow Rd bridge with no obstacles. Banks much less muddy. May encounter motorboats near takeout. Dutch Hollow Rd access convenient to shorten long difficult trip from Strawbridge Rd or to put in for short easy trip.

Stream: **Baraboo River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 43,D7; 44,D1; 36,A1

Put-in: Hwy 33 wayside

Take-out: BT Ldg, RB Wisconsin River 1 mi below mouth

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: State natural area with dense wooded banks, hilly vista, confluence with Wisconsin River.

Cautions, Hazards: One log liftover, current may be strong in Wisconsin River. Stay along RB of Wis. R. for 1 mi to takeout.

Stream: **Bark River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 29,A7

Put-in: Hwy D bridge

Take-out: Hwy N bridge

Travel Time: 2-3

Features: Abundant springtime waterfowl, cranes. State wildlife area.

Cautions, Hazards: Narrow woody tangle from Koch Rd bridge down to Hwy D through wildlife area but passable without portage. Current and channel difficult to distinguish in broad sluggish areas.



Take-out: Confluence with Rock River at Milwaukee Ave. bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Abundant waterfowl through generally undeveloped marsh area.

Cautions, Hazards: Current and channel hard to distinguish in broad sluggish areas. May encounter motorboats near takeout.

Stream: **Bear River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 88,A1; 97,D5

Put-in: South River Rd bridge

Take-out: South River Rd bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Take-out: East River Rd bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Take-out: Hwy 182

Travel Time: 8-10

Features: Outstanding remote, quiet wilderness-like trip. Wilderness campsite, LB about 2 mi above E. River Rd bridge. Very clear water at put in, weedy with deep holes.

Broad marsh and weed section. Dense banks of secluded northwoods forest. Otters, sedge wrens. Below Hwy 182 empties into Manitiwosh River which soon enters Flambeau Flowage, may then continue down Flambeau R. for long extended WW trip.

Cautions, Hazards: Very long for one day trip, suggest break into sections or camp overnight; bring adequate supplies due to remoteness. Passes through Lac DuFlambeau Reservation.

Stream: **Beaver Dam River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 37,B6

Put-in: Hwy J bridge

Take-out: Mud Lake parking lot

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Very abundant waterfowl and numerous cranes easy to observe across low banks standing in fields, hawks. State wildlife area; secluded.

Cautions, Hazards: No log jams or portages, channel splits for several miles, passes under RR bridge then rejoins 2 mi or so later, left channel good. Exposed to wind due to low banks and open area. At Mud Lake, exit south to Crawfish River then head upstream 1 mi to takeout near Hwy G bridge.

Stream: **Brunet River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 86,B1

Put-in: Lake Winter dam

Take-out: Old J bridge

Travel Time: 1-2



Take-out: Hwy 27 bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Outstanding wilderness-like trip with excellent northwoods scenery. Rugged, adventurous; scenic falls; rocky whitewater. Pine, spruce, cedar; eagle, osprey, songbirds, warblers; stumpy bottomlands above Hwy 27.

Cautions, Hazards: Hazardous put-in among fast water and log below dam. Dangerous 5' rocky falls preceded by grade II rapids in two pitches shortly below Old J bridge. Portage around falls RB 100 yd. along trail. Long stretches of shallow rocky riffles and light rapids, very bumpy in low water; 2' rock dam requires lift over at cabin RB. Need high water for good canoeing.

Stream: **Brunet River, cont.**

Atlas & Gaz.: 85,C8

Put-in: Hwy 27 bridge

Take-out: Smith Rd bridge

Travel Time: 2-3

Take-out: Hwy D bridge, Chippewa River

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Passes through gentle pastoral area then picturesque northwoods scenery. Swift, shallow, rocky. Confluence with Chippewa River.

Cautions, Hazards: Must duck under barbed wire fence below Hwy 27. Long difficult shallow boulder beds, light rapids and riffles below Smith Rd bridge, also large farm that may be odorous. Need good water levels.

Stream: **Deerskin River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 89, A7

Put-in: Ldg at end of dirt Rd off FR 2199, 1/2 mi.

Take-out: Range Line Rd bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Very pleasant, quiet, trip down beautiful, pristine, coldwater stream with varied scenery; brushy upper section; broad marsh flowage; pines, spruce, cedar, car-sized boulders, slow current below dam.

Cautions, Hazards: Very narrow and brushy in swift water below put-in but passable with no log jams; wading fishermen. Carry 30' around dam, LB. No rapids or riffles. Look for mouth of Blackjack Creek shortly below put-in.

Stream: **Duck Creek**

Atlas & Gaz.: 44, D2; 36,A1

Put-in: Hwy G bridge

Take-out: dead end levee rd just below Hwy 51 bridge

Travel Time: 3-4



Features: Excellent secluded trip that passes through scenic wildlife area and very large marsh above Hwy 51. Very abundant waterfowl, cranes, hawks, otters,. Duck Creek Campground near put-in.

Cautions, Hazards: Easy canoeing but exposed to wind in open areas; no log jams below Hwy G but one above must be portaged if start at campground. Navigation tricky through sluggish backwaters, diverse channels and huge marsh above Hwy 51. Stay S. and W. of RR to takeout as approach Hwy 51.

Take-out: BT Ldg, Wisconsin River, Dekorra

Travel Time: 4-6

Features: Adventurous section through flooded woods, wild-like secluded bottomlands. Abundant waterfowl, wood ducks very common.

Cautions, Hazards: Navigation tricky through broad, sluggish flatwater below put-in at levee rd due to poorly defined channel and current and through very shallow divergent channels among many deadfalls to lift over and around and walk through; no defined banks, then channel collects and broadens as near Wis. R., stay near LB to BT Ldg just below sandstone cliffs. May encounter motorboats near, in Wis. R.

**Stream: Eau Claire River, north fork, Eau Claire Co.**

Atlas & Gaz.: 62,B1

Put-in: Wilson Park

Take-out: Channey Rd bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Takeout: Eisenberg Memorial Ldg RB, below con. with south fork via Channey Rd

Travel Time: 6-7

Features: Outstanding wilderness-like scenic adventurous trip entirely through Eau Claire Co. Forest. Hamilton Falls; scenic gorge; challenging whitewater. Dense woods of maple, some large pines; songbirds, eagle, otters. Camping at Wilson Park.

Cautions, Hazards: Portage 100' LB around falls; shallow rocky grade II rapids, ledges below falls and through gorge require good WW skills. A few short carries over or around logs. May take out at Channey Rd bridge to shorten trip by 1 hr. Sandy, muddy forest roads. Need higher water for good canoeing. Watch for south fork above takeout.

**Stream: Eau Claire, south fork, Eau Claire Co.**

Atlas & Gaz.: 62,C1

Put-in: Butler Lane, LB via Camp Globe Rd

Take-out: Eisenberg Memorial Ldg

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Lovely, peaceful, secluded wilderness-like trip entirely through Eau Claire Co. Forest. Dense wooded shores of maples, some pines, hemlock; spiderwort, sunflowers, butterflyweed; spiny softshell turtle. Camp nearby at Rock dam Lake with scenic falls.

Cautions, Hazards: Easy canoeing with good current, no log jams or portages. Watch carefully for takeout at dirt Ldg, RB below confluence with N. fork. May lengthen trip



by 2 hr and increase excitement by continuing on to Hwy G bridge thru several grade II rapids.

**Stream: Big Eau Pleine River**

Atlas and Gaz.: 63,A7; 63,B8

Put-in: Hwy N bridge, Cherokee County Park

Take-out: Dam, LB, Big Rapids County Park

Travel Time: 4-6

Features: Delightful, scenic, secluded trip with light whitewater through mostly undeveloped shores of hardwoods, some pines, hemlock; occasional rock outcrop; good birding, eagle, trillium, phlox. Nice county parks at each access.

Cautions, Hazards: Challenging, bouldery grade II rapids below put-in and another fast grade II rapids 1 mi or so above Hwy P bridge; negotiate dense boulder bed of March Rapids, grade II along left channel. Many riffles and light rapids alternate with pools most of way. To shorten trip take out above March Rapids, RB at park.

Put-in: Big Rapids County Park

Take-out: Hwy M bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Peaceful, lovely scenic trip with light rapids and riffles, pools and eddies between; dense maple woods, pine, hemlock, songbirds, eagle, trillium, phlox.

Cautions, Hazards: Fun easy fast water, no rapids greater than grade I.

**Stream: Embarrass River, middle branch**

Atlas & Gaz.: 66,B1

Put-in: West Seneca Rd bridge

Take-out: BT Ldg, flowage in Caroline

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Challenging, rugged moderate whitewater trip! Good scenery along secluded banks of cedar, hemlock, spruce, pines rare; songbirds, phlox. Northwoods atmosphere at put-in; developed as approach takeout. Cmpgd nearby on Hwy M east of Tigerton with scenic tent sites on S. branch Embarrass shortly above Tigerton Dells but is popular with ATV's using trail system.

Cautions, Hazards: 1 mi after put-in, grade I then grade II rapids, then 3 or 4 times carry canoe over or around logs thru slow water; short portage LB at Weasal dam, grade II rapids above Weasal dam Rd, then 2 or 3 log jams to carry over then prepare to scout thrilling grade II-III rapids with fast 3' drops over ledges thru boulder garden that ends in rock dam blocked in center! Scout LB! Then another long grade II and several grade I-II rapids before flatwater and cabins of flowage. Requires good WW skills and good water levels. Note - scouting along S. shore of S.B. Embarrass above and thru Tigerton Dells it appears too treacherous for recreational canoes due to very rocky, constricted, twisting channel over ledges and thru narrow chutes above, then dense boulder beds of dells and should be left to daring, rugged individuals in kayaks and small WW canoes.



Stream: **Fox River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 44,D2

Put-in: Hwy 22 bridge

Take-out: Swan Lake BT Ldg, LB, South Shore Rd

Travel Time: 2-3

Features: Adventurous, secluded trip through rugged bottomland wildlife area and tangled branches of winding twisting narrow channel. Good water clarity; ducks, wildlife.

Cautions, Hazards: Many tight spots through tangles of branches and logs first mi or so but reasonably passable with effort and without portaging. Broadens into marsh area as approach Swan Lake. Handsaw may be helpful.

Take-out: Hwy 33 wayside

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: As exit Swan Lake, becomes pleasant easy canoeing through large open state wildlife area. Many ducks, cranes, hawks, sandpiper, winnowing snipe, cattails, impressive stand of large weeping wilows. Nice rest area at BT Ldg.

Cautions, Hazards: No log jams or portages below Swan Lake. Stay to left as cross lake and look for outlet in marshy SW corner. May encounter wind and motorboats on lake. Hwy 33 wayside makes good starting point for round trip. Best to canoe in early spring.

Stream: **Grand River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 44, C2

Put-in: Grand River lock and dam, Fox R. BT Ldg, RB via Hwy 22

Take-out: Grand River Marsh dam via access rd N. from Hwy B or do round trip

Travel Time: 2-3, doubles for round trip

Features: Scenic trip through very large state wildlife area with very abundant waterfowl. Undeveloped shores in wild-like condition with expansive views. Grand River Marsh is huge prime waterfowl habitat and has local population of yellow-headed blackbirds plus good population of soras and marsh wrens.

Cautions, Hazards: Watch for mouth of Grand R. as head down Fox then head up Grand to dam; no obstacles. Easy to progress up sluggish, broad channel of Grand R.; best portage around dam is N. shore to explore marsh; exposed to wind on marsh. Restricted no-fishing area below dam. May encounter motorboats on Fox and Grand Rivers; no motors allowed on Grand R. Marsh; popular fishing and hunting area.

Stream: **Grant River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 24,C4

Put-in: Adrian Hollow Rd Ldg, RB, just below Camel Ridge Rd. bridge

Take-out: Hwy 133 bridge

Travel Time: 4-6



Features: Quiet, secluded trip through hilly pastoral countryside with great abundance of very pleasant scenery of massive, towering wooded bluffs typical of the topography of southwest Wisconsin as you glide along their base and view others in the distance. Swift shallow runs and light riffles with modest waves in the upper section followed by a slower and deeper lower section. Wood ducks common, mallards, mergansers, spiny soft-shell turtle, a few cranes and spotted a coyote scurrying along the high bank as well as one or two white egrets.

Cautions, Hazards: Muddy, high and slippery banks make for difficult footing; some moderate difficulty with log jams below Burton Ldg. Several woody jams to sneak thru or duck under or lift over and one very muddy slippery portage around log jam alongside farm. Generally a boulder-free trip with firm sandy/dirt bottom in channel. Be careful to avoid snags in outside of bends in swift water of upper section. Good alternate landing at Chaffee Rd bridge or at Hwy N bridge for shorter trip. A landing marked at Burton by a ladder down a steep dirt bank and take-out sign makes a good spot for a mid-trip break. Adrian Hollow Rd is very muddy with deep ruts near put-in - better to access this nice landing with parking from Camel Ridge Rd.

### Stream: **Halls Creek**

Atlas & Gaz.: 50,A2

Put-in: LB, below dam, Lower Lake, 1 mi SE of Merrillan via Hwy K

Take-out: Halls Creek Canoe Ldg, Black River

Travel Time: 4-6

Features: A true gem!! A precious paddling resource of outstanding quality! Rivals the Kickapoo in scenery with its great abundance of towering sandstone bluffs covered in tall white pines and surpasses it in excitement with its continual swift current and light rapids and riffles that cut a winding path through one beautiful gorge after another. Two thrilling short drops of rapids. Perhaps the very best small river trip in Wisconsin that combines beautiful scenery in a secluded setting and novice to intermediate whitewater. In early spring you will be entertained by phoebes, kinglets and chickadees flitting among the pines; also an excellent chance to see otters, turkey and deer along the high banks; mergansers, wood ducks, hawks. Sand and gravel bottom, occasional sand bar, very little sign of development other than a few charming log and rustic homes as leave put-in and near Garage Rd bridge.

Cautions, Hazards: Carry in 100' down steep hill, LB below dam; one log liftover shortly downstream. Must carry/drag canoe past old dam remains shortly after pass power lines and foot bridge. Very difficult to see abrupt 3' drop, listen for roar and watch for concrete remains along shore. Stay clear of snags in fast water of outside bends, keep to inside of bends or mid-channel. There are two thrilling steep grade II loud abrupt drops about 1 mi or so above the Hwy E bridge - may get stuck if water too low. All other rapids are brief with only modest boulder-free waves and easily run with care. Hug RB as you enter the much stronger current of the Black River to reach take-out just around the bend of the mouth to avoid getting swept downstream. Requires good water levels and generally good paddling skill. Be wary of deer ticks!



**Stream: Honey Creek**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 35,B5

**Put-in:** Hwy O bridge

**Take-out:** Ferry Bluff Ldg, Wisconsin River

**Travel Time:** 3

**Features:** Gentle canoeing with scenic vistas of wooded hills, pastoral valleys, massive bluffs. Wild-like flooded dense woods, sluggish, with ducks below Hwy 60. At takeout hike up trail to Ferry Bluff for spectacular view; softshell turtles common near Hwy D.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Pull canoe over several logs among high muddy banks; below Hwy 60 pull over low sinking foot bridge; channel disappears into woods; stay along Ferry Bluff Rd as approach takeout or may get swept downstream by strong current of Wis. R. and wind. Many logs above Hwy O. Ferry Bluff trail closed at times to protect eagles.

**Stream: Kinnickinnic River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 58,B3

**Put-in:** River Ridge Rd, River Falls. Carry in 1/8 mi along ski trail

**Take-out:** Hwy F bridge

**Travel Time:** 4-5

**Features:** Delightfully outstanding fun scenic trip through large natural area riding swift current of beautiful pristine stream along secluded undeveloped shores for miles! Light rapids, riffles, runs, eddies, holes over gravel bottom. Occasional high scenic bluffs covered with lichens and moss, abutting pines. Lovely woods of maple, oak, ash willow; songbirds, eagle. KK State Park office nearby.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Prepare appropriately for remote secluded trip with no road access until takeout. No hazardous rapids or log jams; a few downed branches to avoid. A few fast riffles and swift runs. Wading fishermen common as approach takeout. No camping at KK State Park.

**Stream: Little Wolf River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 65, D8

**Put-in:** Wolf River Rd bridge, 1 mi upstream of Comet Creek

**Take-out:** Hwy J bridge, DNR Ldg

**Travel Time:** 2-3

**Features:** Exciting, scenic, moderately rugged whitewater trip along swift pristine stream; fast shallow long bouldery sections with cedars and hemlocks; secluded dense woods along shores. Entrance of Comet Creek at cabin, LB, 2 or 3 other cabins interspersed between long undeveloped sections.

**Cautions, Hazards:** First couple miles gentle boulder gardens; last couple miles continuous fast very rocky shallow, difficult grade I-II rapids, boulder gardens. Scraping and bumping common; need good WW skills. No portages or log jams; wading fishermen at bridges. Requires good water levels.



Take-out: BT Ldg, Big Falls, RB above dam

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Thrilling whitewater ride through scenic gorge with steep ledge slab rock banks that constrict channel forming good waves in center! Above McNingh Rd bridge slow and deep with cabins and farm, grade I-II rapids pass under bridge. Good view of Big Falls from park below dam; cascade of rocky ledges but low outflow from dam. Elk farm nearby along Hwy E south of Little Falls.

Cautions, Hazards: To run rapids of gorge take left channel around island above start of rapids; generally easy to ride out grade II-III waves in center without any obstruction. Steep smooth sloping ledges make pull-out hazardous. Popular with tubers and kayakers, most start at McNingh Rd bridge and often repeat. Note - the upper section above put-in is plagued with log jams across narrow channel.

Stream: **Manitiwoc River, south branch**

Atlas & Gaz.: 55, D8

Put-in: Lemke Rd bridge

Take-out: Collins Rd bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Excellent scenery as pass through secluded extensive marsh, state wildlife area. Abundant waterfowl, shorebirds, sora, hawks. Scenic, long flowage, mostly undeveloped with wooded shores.

Cautions, Hazards: No log jams or portages. Last 2 mi or so pass thru sluggish broad flatwater subject to wind. May shorten trip by takeout LB at mouth of N. branch on Fork Rd via Lemke Rd or takeout RB 1 mi up flowage at hunter parking lot.

Stream: **Milwaukee River, east branch**

Atlas & Gaz.: 46,D4; 38,A4

Put-in: Hwy SS bridge

Take-out: RB, millpond dam above Mill Rd bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Adventurous trip with wilderness-like quality through Kettle Moraine State Forest. Easy canoeing through brush banks and oak woods, across state owned lake, millpond. Pass by large complex of group camp, RB above Youth Camp Rd. Outstanding hiking nearby on Ice Age Trail. Excellent visitor center.

Cautions, Hazards: Very narrow, shallow and brushy below put-in but passable. Broad marsh and sluggish as approach Mauthe Lake; carry over dam at outlet across lake; brief fast rocky stretch above Youth Camp Rd. Pull over RB above millpond dam, has abrupt 6' drop.

Take-out: Hwy H bridge, LB

Travel Time: 6-8



Features: Scenic and adventurous but more difficult section of tangled bottomlands; occasional hilly vista; farm at confluence with main branch.

Cautions, Hazards: Fast water with downed branches and sharp bend below Millroad bridge put-in; twisting channel through oak woods with several brief liftovers and carry arounds.

### Stream: **Moose River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 95,D5

Put-in: FR 173 bridge

Take-out: BT Ldg, Moose Lake, Nat. For. Cmgd.

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Superb adventurous wilderness-like canoe trip entirely through unspoiled scenery of Cheq. Nat. Forest. Easy pleasant paddling most of way but some difficulty. Spruce and pine woods; widespreads of channel common; marshy with lush grass banks. May paddle directly to campsite at campground. Part of Elk Reintroduction Program, Fisher Management area. Possible to continue on to Chippewa Flowage and down Chippewa River for long scenic exciting trip.

Cautions, Hazards: No rapids, 1/2 doz. or so beaver dams to push way thru or drag over. One difficult carry around bad log jam with fast rocky ledge, no portage trail. Pull canoe over logs and walk thru rocky fast water. Keep right as enter lake, past swim area then between island and point around corner to Ldg.

### Stream: **Morrison Creek**

Atlas & Gaz.: 50,A3

Put-in: Cemetery Rd bridge

Take-out: Halls Creek Canoe Ldg, Black River

Travel Time: 3-5

Features: Truly outstanding intermediate whitewater trip of moderate ruggedness with superb wilderness scenery entirely through remote area of Black River State Forest. A small river paddling resource of extremely high quality! A bouldery fast upper section reminiscent of the upper Peshtigo or Popple with low rugged banks and large pines followed by a calmer section along the base of numerous towering sheer cliffs with huge boulders along the shore then a slow lower flatwater section of hardwood bottomlands. Excellent chance to observe otters, turkey and deer; phoebes, kinglets and chickadees, ducks, hawks. Very secluded with hardly a trace of development for miles from put-in. Opportunity for viewing of spectacular falls and roaring rapids below nearby Lake Arbutus dam - in high water rivals any found in Minnesota's BWCA!

Cautions, Hazards: Occasional grade I-II rapids for first mile with some boulders to dodge; 1 mi below put-in pass by Oxbow Pond State Recreation Area/ Trout Pond, LB then 1/2 mi below that prepare for grade II rapids in fast water that culminates in ferocious grade II-III drop with good size boulders and waves! Best to scout! A few good Grade I-II bouldery rapids follow to Hwy K then a fast, noisy grade II rapids pass under



the K bridge, easily run with scouting. Then only light rapids and riffles along winding channel with snags in outside of bends to avoid. After pass power lines expect to carry twice around large fallen trees up over 5' banks. Easy float down stretch of flatwater of Black River to Halls Creek Ldg, RB, be cautious of strong current. Regretfully suggest avoid using takeout at mouth, LB in Ho Chunk Reservation due to tremendous amount of garbage and trash strewn about the area. Prepare appropriately for a hazardous trip thru a remote and rugged area!. Requires good water levels and good WW paddling skill. Be wary of deer ticks!

**Stream: Neenah Creek**

Atlas & Gaz.: 43,B7

Put-in: Hwy I bridge

Take-out: Hwy P bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Pleasant, quiet scenic trip through secluded pastoral countryside. Very abundant waterfowl and cranes. Good water clarity, sandy bottom, slow current with winding twisting channel. Expansive grassy fields along banks.

Cautions, Hazards: 1/2 doz. barbed wire fences to duck under. From put-in to Hwy D bridge, narrow and shallow with many branches to avoid; several short portages, carries around logs and culvert; several foot bridges to sneak under; severely winding channel slows progress last couple miles.

**Stream: Oconto River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 67, A5

Put-in: Hwy 32 bridge

Take-out: Hwy H bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Very pleasant easy scenic trip along miles of undeveloped wooded banks with low shores. Mostly hardwood bottomland with good stand of hemlock and cedar on high LB 1 mi above Hwy H bridge. Secluded and quiet trip; osprey.

Cautions, Hazards: Many fallen trees along shores of winding, broad channel in good current, easily avoided with care.

**Stream: Oconto River, south branch**

Atlas & Gaz.: 79,D5

Put-in: Hwy AA bridge

Take-out: Hill Rd bridge, DNR Ldg

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Secluded and scenic trip through state wildlife area. Beautiful stream with clear water and stoney bottom. Hemlocks, cedars, a few large pine. Some difficulty with log jams. Nat For. Campground nearby with scenic trail along Bagley Rapids.



Cautions, Hazards: Many fallen branches to avoid along narrow winding channel; 2 or 3 bad log jams to carry around or drag over. No rapids or riffles; good depth; wading fishermen near bridges.

Take-out: Hwy 32 bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Take-out: River Rd bridge

Travel Time: 6-7

Features: Moderately rugged difficult trip due to downed logs but good scenery and seclusion along dense woods of abundant hemlocks, some cedar, birch; farms in background. Swift, stoney, clear water.

Cautions, Hazards: Somewhat narrow channel with many log jams. At Hill Rd bridge/Ldg, put-in requires 100' carry down steep woody hill to stoney fast water below bridge, LB; 3 or 4 log jams to lift over above Hwy 32 and 1/2 doz. more below 32. Recommend takeout at Hwy 32. No rapids or riffles.

### Stream: **Pelican River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 89,D6

Put-in: snow. trail bridge - take dirt rd S. from Hwy 8, across Hwy from Haymeadow Rd; carry in last 1/5 mi to avoid mud.

Take-out: Berquist Rd deadend

Travel Time: 2

Take-out: River Bend Rd bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Outstanding adventurous wilderness-like trip through secluded northwoods area and marsh. Rugged intermediate whitewater trip! Rock outcrop, boulder gardens, spruce, pine, cedar, otters. Remote access at put-in, large wooded area of snowmobile trails, no developed Ldg. Difficult passage of forceful rapids around trail bridge.

Cautions, Hazards: Primitive put-in conditions at snow. trail bridge. 1 hr after put-in encounter very dense boulder bed in shallow, slow marsh section, may have to walk thru. Next - grade III rapids begins at snow. trail bridge, no portage route, carry canoe around bridge RB thru thick woods and brush and walk/line thru and down over 3 or 4 rocky ledges in very fast constricted water. Too hazardous to run thru narrow rocky chutes. N. branch enters at Berquist Rd abutment, greatly increases flow and improves canoeing. Several more challenging bouldery grade I-II rapids follow. 1/2 doz beaver dams, 1 or 2 log jams to lift over. Requires good WW skills and good water levels.

### Stream: **Peshtigo River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 90, C3

Put-in: Hwy O bridge

Take-out: Hwy 8 bridge

Travel Time: 2



Features: Exciting challenging whitewater! Excellent northwoods scenery of high banks with cedar, hemlock, pine, spruce along rugged shores. Very narrow, slow brushy channel at put-in; remote access. Songbirds, warblers common. Entirely within Nicolet Nat. Forest.

Cautions, Hazards: Scout each rapids. Take left channel around island as approach first rapids (right channel blocked by foot bridge), a grade II fast bouldery run with waves around blind corner. Next rapids is challenging grade II-III - left channel blocked by logs, take right channel and stay right of hole then take center past 2 large boulders then hug RB to miss large waves in center.

### Stream: Pine River, Forest Co.

Atlas & Gaz.: 90, B1

Put-in: FR 2182 bridge/ Ldg

Take-out: FR 2174 bridge/Ldg

Travel Time: 2

Features: Excellent wilderness-like quality, peaceful, easy canoeing along lush, grassy banks amid northwoods backdrop; widens in spots; slow current; weedy, firm bottom. Entirely within Headwaters Wilderness Area, Nicolet Nat. Forest.

Cautions, Hazards: No fast water, no fallen logs or branches due to grass and brush banks with woods farther behind. Good depth; a few minor beaver dams easily passed.

Take-out: Hwy 55 bridge

Travel Time: 6-8

Features: Continues as above a few miles then a stretch of fast water; 2 ATV bridges; several cabins last 2 miles. Entrance of N. branch 1 mile above takeout.

Cautions, Hazards: Low ft bridge to sneak under in slow water at cabin, LB. Fast, narrow, shallow grade I-II rapids with low ft bridge in middle - line canoe under then 2 or 3 fallen trees to pull around, over.

### Stream: Pine River, Lincoln Co.

Atlas & Gaz.: 76, C4

Put-in: Hwy X bridge

Take-out: Center Rd bridge

Travel Time: 4-6

Features: Outstanding northwoods scenic wilderness-like trip with many long difficult shallow rocky riffles and boulder gardens. Old growth hemlock, pines, some large, cedars, many spruce. Scenic, dense hemlock stands along rock outcrop; excellent water clarity, pristine gravel bottom; lush grassy banks. Beyond takeout is long rugged grade II rapids of Pine Dells through scenic gorge above Hwy W bridge.

Cautions, Hazards: Very difficult in low water, very rocky with bumps and scrapes thru dense boulder gardens in fast water continuous for long stretches. No log jams or portages; 2 or 3 easy beaver dams. Better canoeing after N. branch enters 50' upstream of cabin. Entrance of N. branch hidden by island if along LB. Good access RB, 3 mi below



Hwy X at Townline Rd deadend (also LB). Cabin 100' upstream of Townline Rd makes good landmark for takeout. Poor access at Hwy 64.

**Stream: Pine River, Richland Co.**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 34,C1

**Put-in:** Twin Bluffs Rd bridge, city park

**Take-out:** Gotham BT Ldg at confluence with Wis. R.

**Travel Time:** 4-5

**Features:** Secluded, quiet trip along wooded bottomland shores bordering wildlife area to E. and pastoral countryside to W.. Farms and large scenic bluffs in distance. Ducks, cranes, otters, hawks, owl. Empties into Wis. R. at takeout.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Many fallen trees but broad channel makes avoiding them easy. Two short portages around ft bridge, RR bridge. Stay left as approach takeout, do not get swept into strong current of Wis. R.

**Stream: Prairie River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 76, C4

**Put-in:** Park. lot, Prairie Dells Rd; carry-in 100 yd down steep hill to tail end of rapids

**Take-out:** Hwy C bridge

**Travel Time:** 3-4

**Features:** Very pleasant canoeing along beautiful, swift, clean-looking river. Long stretches of wooded shores of cedar, spruce, pine among hardwoods. Stoney bottom with rocks and logs along shore. Very scenic walk along Prairie Dells from park. lot to view rapids, gorge.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Prairie Dells is a long grade II-III bouldery rapids in constricted channel thru high gorge with no takeout until end of rapids! It is preceded by the hazardous remains of an old dam that should be carried around. Popular with kayakers, WW canoeists and shore fishermen. A few easy grade I rapids and riffles, swift runs continue below end of dells (put-in) to takeout. No obstacles. Note - If canoeing the upper section keep in mind that between Hackbarth Rd and Hwy CCC there is a long, difficult rocky and hazardous grade II-III rapids with a rugged, unmarked 1/8 mi portage RB thru the woods. This is preceded by several bad log jams and a dangerously low foot bridge that should be carried around.

**Stream: Puchyan River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 45,A4

**Put-in:** Hwy J bridge

**Take-out:** BT Ldg on S. shore, Fox R., White R. lock and dam

**Travel Time:** 6-7

**Features:** Outstanding wilderness-like adventurous trip through large undeveloped scenic wildlife area of expansive Puchyan Marsh. Abundant waterfowl, cranes, winnowing



snipe, black-crowned night heron, king rail, frogs, turtles, yellow-headed blackbird. Very clear water with sandy bottom; winding narrow channel.

Cautions, Hazards: Stay right of isld 1/2 mi after put-in, in fast water, shallow rocks on left. May have to cut way thru a few branch tangles but generally passable. Broadens as nears Fox R.; current may be much stronger in Fox as head upstream 2 1/2 mi to takeout; very tiring but next takeout downstream is 8 miles! Handsaw may be helpful.

**Stream: Rat River, Winnebago Co.**

Atlas & Gaz.: 54,C3

Put-in: Hwy W bridge

Take-out: Hwy MM bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Very good wild-like trip through expansive marsh, wetlands area. Abundant waterfowl, cranes winnowing snipe, sora, swamp sparrows, yellowlegs, cattails along winding channel with good current. Carp common in broad shallow areas. Game and fur farms near Hwy 110, wooded banks below to takeout.

Cautions, Hazards: Tried to start trip at Hwy M bridge amid large very secluded marsh wildlife area but channel soon disappears into cattails; better to head upstream from Hwy W bridge to see this section. No portages or obstacles.

**Stream: Big Rib River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 75,C8; 76,D1; 64,A1; 64,A2

Put-in: RB, Lemke Rd deadend, N. from Hwy 64

Take-out: Hwy 64 bridge

Travel Time: 2

Features: Very good scenic, secluded trip through undeveloped woods along low banks. Swift current with many narrow divergent channels; eddies, backwater pockets.

Cautions, Hazards: No log jams or rapids or portages but many swift narrow diverse channels to choose from with fallen branches to avoid.

Put-in: Hwy 64 bridge

Take-out: Hwy F bridge, Amco Co. Park

Travel Time: 4-6

Features: Dangerous bouldery whitewater through rugged gorge! Remote, secluded, adventurous trip. Boulder gardens, dense woods of maple, some hemlock and pines. Many delightful swift runs, riffles and eddies.

Cautions, Hazards: Requires either very difficult to impossible portage, or difficult lining thru, or hazardous run of treacherous grade II-III rapids below dangerous grade III cascade of ledges that should be carried around. If water not too high carry around ledges and perhaps run rapids below. A long dense, slow boulder garden follows and only light fast water beyond.

Put-in: Hwy F bridge

Take-out: Hwy S bridge, Rib Falls Co. Park



Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Generally easy pleasant canoeing through wooded area of maples, willow, some pine, spruce, hemlock along rock outcrop. Swift riffles, light rapids; songbirds, eagle. Good view of scenic Rib Falls from Co. park along left bank.

Cautions, Hazards: Run grade I-II rapids immediately at put-in. Only light WW remains to takeout. Listen for roar of Rib Falls as bouldery RB appears, takeout LB at park above falls, an impressive grade IV 5' drop.

Put-in: LB, below Hwy S bridge

Take-out: Hwy 107 bridge, Riverside Park, Marathon City

Travel Time: 2-3

Features: Generally good scenery along hardwood banks; swift gravel runs and bars; songbirds, eagle, some cabins. Trucks from nearby quarry make routine river crossings.

Cautions, Hazards: Grade I rapids 1 mi or so above Hwy 29 bridge; some deadwood to avoid; good channel width. Dumptrucks from busy quarry nearby may abruptly cross river in shallow areas - be alert!

Put-in: Hwy 107 bridge

Take-out: LB, Sunnyvale Park, Packer Ave from Hwy 29

Travel Time: 6-7

Features: Easy, pleasant canoeing along swift current with gravel runs and bars past scenic woods of maple, some pines, spruce, hemlock; songbirds; trillium, phlox.

Cautions, Hazards: No rapids or log jams. Takeout LB 1 mi past RR bridge, watch carefully for U-shaped backwater cove - this is your takeout - has trail that must portage 1/4 mi to park lot. Don't miss your takeout - next access is Wausaw! Popular remote control model airplane usage area shortly below takeout.

### Stream: **Rock River**

Atlas & Gaz: 38,B1

Put-in: Hwy 60 bridge, gas station

Take-out: Elmwood Rd bridge, Ldg, RB

Travel Time: 2

Take-out: Hwy MM bridge

Travel Time: 4

Features: Very pleasant, quiet and scenic trip through secluded, rural countryside. Long stretches of undeveloped shores of low, wooded banks through mature hardwood bottomlands. Good numbers of wood ducks and mallards plus a few cranes.

Cautions, Hazards: Very low clearance under Hwy 60 bridge at put-in if water level is high. Channel very wide and sluggish at times; may have to search among flooded woods to refind current. Very nice intermediate access at Elmwood Rd bridge for a shorter trip; poor access at Davidson Rd bridge among a cluster of houses. No obstacles along the way.



**Stream: Somo River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 88,D1; 76,A1

**Put-in:** Pine Tree Lane bridge

**Take-out:** Somo dam Rd bridge, up Little Somo R. 1 mi, or use Lake Mohawksin access downstream

**Travel Time:** 6-7

**Features:** Outstanding adventurous wilderness-like trip through remote northwoods area. Some challenging whitewater, many riffles, light rapids, modest boulder gardens. Scenic primitive campsite on high rocky LB along large pool/hole and across from thick stand of birch RB. Large pines, spruce, cedar, hemlock below Zenith Tower bridge. Difficult takeout up Little Somo River.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Light rapids, riffles below put-in then next rapids is difficult grade II-III formed as channel splits and bends around island. Scout RB, portage would be very difficult thru thick brush, best to line and walk thru. Four small beaver dams to run and several light rapids and riffles. Where Little Somo enters turn left and go upstream 1 mi thru shallow flatwater and takeout RB near shack by dirt rd/trail to avoid difficult progress up fast rocky shallows to bridge.

**Stream: Squaw Creek**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 88,A1; 87, A8

**Put-in:** BT Ldg, Squaw Lake, W. Squaw L. Rd, S. from Hwy 70

**Take-out:** FR 143 bridge

**Travel Time:** 5-6

**Features:** Some excellent stretches of varied scenery; remote midsection through Cheq. Nat. Forest. Cabins along bank of outlet from Squaw L. Good stand of hemlock past Hwy 70; lush wetland with shorebirds; steep banks of spruce, pine, cedar then expansive marsh area.

**Cautions, Hazards:** Motorboats on Squaw L. and outlet as follow LB to exit lake. Occasional beaver dams to pull over; shallow rocky riffle; must portage briefly LB around rock dam above Hwy 70 at bar & resort. Some very shallow slow, mucky spots. May continue past takeout to Pike Lake and return easily upstream to Ldg.

**Stream: Squirrel River**

**Atlas & Gaz.:** 88,B2

**Put-in:** Scotchman Lake Rd bridge

**Take-out:** Scotchman Lake Rd Bridge (2nd crossing)

**Travel Time:** 2

**Take-out:** Camp nine Rd bridge on Tomahawk R.

**Travel Time:** 5-6

**Features:** Outstanding, quiet, wilderness-like trip through huge remote marsh area. Easy paddling along slow current with good water clarity. Spruce abundant in background.



Waterfowl common, swamp sparrow, sedge wrens. Joins Tomahawk River in remote area, large pines below. State natural area nearby with large red pines at end of trail that heads north from Scotchman Lake Rd on peninsula created by long bend in river. May continue down Tomahawk R. to beautiful Willow Flowage for primitive island camping and possibly canoe farther down Tom. R. below dam for two days more through miles of scenic calm water and two rapids.

Cautions, Hazards: Navigation easy along well defined channel; poor footing along shores thru large marsh; good depth and width with no fallen trees; 3 minor beaver dams; short portage around trail bridge; paddle thru culvert as cross Scotchman L. Rd heading S.. Current and volume increases down Tom. R. to takeout. If take out at Scotchman L. Rd., 2nd crossing, have only a short hike back to put-in for shuttle.

### Stream: **Sugar River**

Atlas & Gaz: 28,B1

Put-In: Hwy X bridge/Ldg

Take-out: Hwy EE bridge/Ldg

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Lovely and quiet trip thru pastoral countryside of gently rolling hills along serene, grassy banks lined by overhanging silver maples and white oaks giving a feeling of intimate seclusion with very little sign of development and helped along by a steady current that scours out a sandy bottom. Plentiful songbirds, mallards and wood ducks, muskrat, turtle, deer, catfish.

Cautions, Hazards: Twisting and winding channel at times somewhat obstructed by fallen branches and overhangs especially in the outside of bends requiring some tricky and careful maneuvering to pass by. High water would greatly increase hazards of negotiating tangles. Must drag canoe 100' along well worn path, LB around 2 large fallen trees blocking channel about 1 mi above Hwy C bridge. Muddy shores at bridge landings. Hwy C bridge/Ldg makes a good access for a shorter trip.

### Stream: **Thornapple River**

Atlas & Gaz: 86,C1; 85,D8

Put-in: Thornapple Grade Rd bridge

Take-out: Winter Rd bridge

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Outstanding northwoods wilderness-like trip through remote, heavily wooded, scenic area. Easy canoeing with only light whitewater, good water clarity. Spruce, pine, cedar, meadow, lush grassy banks; songbirds, eagle, otters. Difficult log jams.

Cautions, Hazards: All rapids and riffles easy grade I. Last mi or so above Winter Rd bridge, current slows and deepens and river becomes plagued with large fallen trees



blocking passage in large log jams amid abrupt, 4-5' high, dirt banks. Portage first 2 jams together LB then lift over next few then portage 2 more. Strenuous work.

Put-in: Hwy J bridge

Take-out: Thornapple R. Cmgd below Hwy 27 bridge

Travel time: 5-6

Features: Excellent section of northwoods scenery through riffles and boulder gardens after first pass by 2 farms. Large pines and spruce, birch, eagle, otters. Another farm and hardwoods below Townline Rd bridge, sluggish with high mud banks. Can canoe directly to campsite.

Cautions, Hazards: Easy grade I rapids, riffles, gentle boulder gardens. Sneak past huge fallen pine along LB. At rock dam take chute near LB. No portages or log jams.

### Stream: **Tomahawk River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 88, B2

Put-in: Camp nine Rd bridge

Take-out: dirt Ldg, LB, Cedar Falls Rd

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Outstanding quiet, easy, wilderness-like trip through large completely undeveloped marsh wildlife area. Clear, clean-looking water, sandy bottom, mussels abundant, eagle, pines, spruce.

Cautions, Hazards: No fast water or log jams; no beaver dams. Avoid wading barefoot due to sharp edges of mussel shells. Take out LB above Cedar Falls at small dirt Ldg along Cedar Falls Rd.

### Stream: **Trout River**

Atlas & Gaz.: 97, D7

Put-in: DNR canoe Ldg/campsite at end of Pope's Rd via Gresham Rd

Take-out: BT Ldg, Wild Rice Lake

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Excellent secluded, quiet, easy, wilderness-like trip through northwoods and extensive marsh area. Abundant waterfowl, clear water, weedy bottom. Broad, long, undeveloped, wild-like flowage upstream from put-in.

Cautions, Hazards: No fast water or log jams or obstacles. Put-in from Hwy 51 requires walking canoe thru very dense, shallow brush area then carry over large beaver dam at tail end of flat water. Easier to canoe up to flowage from Pope's Rd Ldg.

### Stream: **White River, Bayfield Co.**

Atlas & Gaz.: 94, A3

Put-in: Pike River Rd bridge

Take-out: Townline Rd bridge

Travel Time: 3-4



Features: Wild-like, quiet, trip through narrow brushy channel in large undeveloped area. Clear pristine water, gentle current. Hansen Creek, exceptionally clear, enters above takeout.

Cautions, Hazards: No fast water or log jams or beaver dams; narrow with confining brushy banks, woods farther back. Poor footing along shore.

Put-in: Townline Rd bridge

Take-out: Bibon Rd bridge/Ldg, RB

Travel Time: 7-8

Features: Superb, remote, quiet and secluded wilderness-like trip through huge Bibon Marsh area. Gentle current, pristine water, weedy, brush-lined shores with spruce woods behind at a fair distance. Excellent birding for warblers in brush along banks. Primitive small campsite RB midway. May continue on past takeout for long stretch of exciting whitewater and unspoiled country to White R. Flowage.

Cautions, Hazards: Very long trip that requires early start or camp overnight along shore. Bring adequate supplies. Well defined channel makes navigation easy. No fast water, no fallen trees or log jams, or beaver dams. Channel diverges near end of trip with best flow to left then merges 1 mi above takeout.

### Stream: **White River, Marquette and Green Co.**

Atlas: 44,A3

Put-in: 22nd Ave bridge

Take-out: Hwy D bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Outstanding adventurous, quiet, wilderness-like trip through huge state wildlife area. Clear water, sandy bottom. Abundant waterfowl, cranes, hawks, swamp sparrows. Meadowlarks and bobolinks common along nearby roads.

Cautions, Hazards: Narrow winding channel thru tangled brush and limbs but passable without any portaging or carries. Handsaw may be helpful. Good depth, slow current. Channel well defined thru open marsh area. Hwy D bridge may be too low to pass under.

Put-in: Hwy D bridge

Take-out: BT Ldg on Fox R., S. shore, White R. lock and dam

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Same description as previous section; confluence with Fox River.

Cautions, Hazards: Navigation difficult as approach confluence with Fox R., channel diverges into flooded woods and becomes very shallow in spots, may have to walk a bit, work way thru to Fox and head upstream 1 mi to takeout. Motorboats on Fox R.

### Stream: **Willow Creek**

Atlas & Gaz.: 54,D1

Put-in: Hwy 49 bridge, below dam



Take-out: BT Ldg, RB, 1 mi below Hwy D bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Very good scenic, quiet trip through expansive Poygan Marsh area. Abundant ducks and cranes, turkeys along wooded shores. Very scenic wild marsh area from takeout down to Lake Poygan.

Cautions, Hazards: Exposed to wind; easy navigation along well defined channel; no obstacles. Restricted waterfowl protection area in some backwater spots, occasional dredged channels.

### Stream: **Wolf River**

Atlas & Gaz: 66,C4; 66,D4; 54,A4

Put-in: Hwy CCC bridge, BT Ldg

Take-out: Hwy 156 bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Excellent wild-like, quiet, secluded trip along wooded undeveloped shores. Borders Navarino State Wildlife Area. Ducks abundant, cormorants, cranes, turkeys; miles of good moving flatwater.

Cautions, Hazards: Occasional motorboat; no fast water or log jams or obstacles.

Put-in: Hwy 156 bridge

Take-out: Hwy F bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Same as previous section.

Cautions, Hazards: Same as previous section.

Put-in: Hwy F bridge

Take-out: BT Ldg, RB, Koepke Rd, E. from Hwy M

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Same description as above. Spawning sturgeon can be viewed along rip rap, LB 1 mi below Hwy F bridge.

Cautions, Hazards: Same as above. Below takeout at BT Ldg navigation becomes difficult thru flooded woods, plus motorboats and cabins become common as approach Shiocton. Spawning sturgeon guarded by DNR volunteers.

### Stream: **Yellow River**

Atlas & Gaz: 51,B7; 51,C7; 51,D8

Put-in: Hwy 54 bridge, below Lake Dexter dam

Take-out: Hwy 80 bridge

Travel Time: 3-4

Features: Outstanding adventurous canoeing through remote bottomlands from Dexterville to Necedah with many divergent channels, at times paddling through a flooded forest. Excellent birding in early spring for goldeneyes and mergansers; beavers common, cormorants, cranes. Many downed trees in outside of bends which are numerous. For first 1 or 2 miles below Lake Dexter dam, channel is slow and deep with



high, wooded banks and clusters of heron rookeries, then remainder of way river takes on described character.

Cautions, Hazards: Remote, wild, rugged bottomland area. For adventurous only. Many divergent channels and downed trees to avoid - stay to inside of bends, especially in strong spring current. No log jams or portages or obstacles. Poor footing along flooded shores. Entirely flatwater.

Put-in: Hwy 80 bridge

Take-out: Hwy F bridge

Travel Time: 4-5

Features: Same as for previous section.

Cautions, Hazards: Same as for previous section.

Put-in: Hwy F bridge

Take-out: 9th St. bridge

Travel Time: 3

Features: Same as above.

Cautions, Hazards: Same as above.

Put-in: 9th St. bridge

Take-out: RB, above dam, Hwy 21

Travel Time: 5-6

Features: Same as above.

Cautions, Hazards: Same as above.

Put-in: BT Ldg, Necedah, RB, Main St. & RR

Take-out: BT Ldg, 32nd St., Castle Rock Lake

Travel Time: 6-8

Features: Lovely, wilderness-like trip past long stretches of undeveloped wooded shores with high banks. Some pines, several backwater sloughs, sandbars. Water treatment facility at put-in. Cabins common as depart Necedah and a few along the way. Possible to continue down Castle Rock Lake to outlet of Wisconsin River below dam and proceed past inspiring Wisconsin Dells and paddle farther for long memorable journey down famous Lower Wisconsin River.

Cautions, Hazards: Navigation tricky as enter Castle Rock Lake - work way through islands and coves to open water until can see BT Ldg. Be careful of wind and motorboats on lake.

.....



# LEGEND

Extent of glaciation

## DEVONIAN FORMATIONS

dolomite and shale

## SILURIAN FORMATIONS

Sd dolomite

## ORDOVICIAN FORMATIONS

Om Maquoketa Formation—shale and dolomite

Os Sinnipee Group—dolomite with some limestone and shale

Osp St. Peter Formation—sandstone with some limestone shale and conglomerate

Opc Prairie du Chien Group—dolomite with some sandstone and shale

## CAMBRIAN FORMATIONS

C sandstone with some dolomite and shale

## MIDDLE PROTEROZOIC ROCKS

Keweenaw Rocks—  
ss, sandstone  
v, basaltic to rhyolitic lava flows  
t, gabbroic, anorthositic and granitic rocks

Wolf River Rocks—  
g, rapakivi granite, granite and syenite  
a, anorthosite and gabbro

## LOWER PROTEROZOIC ROCKS

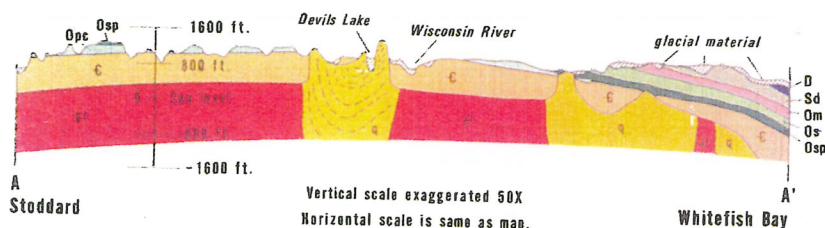
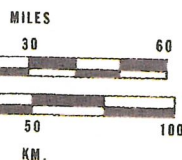
q quartzite

g granite, diorite and gneiss

s, argillite, siltstone, quartzite, graywacke, and iron formation  
vo, basaltic to rhyolitic metavolcanic rocks with some metasedimentary rocks  
ga, meta-gabbro and hornblende diorite

## LOWER PROTEROZOIC OR UPPER ARCHEAN ROCKS

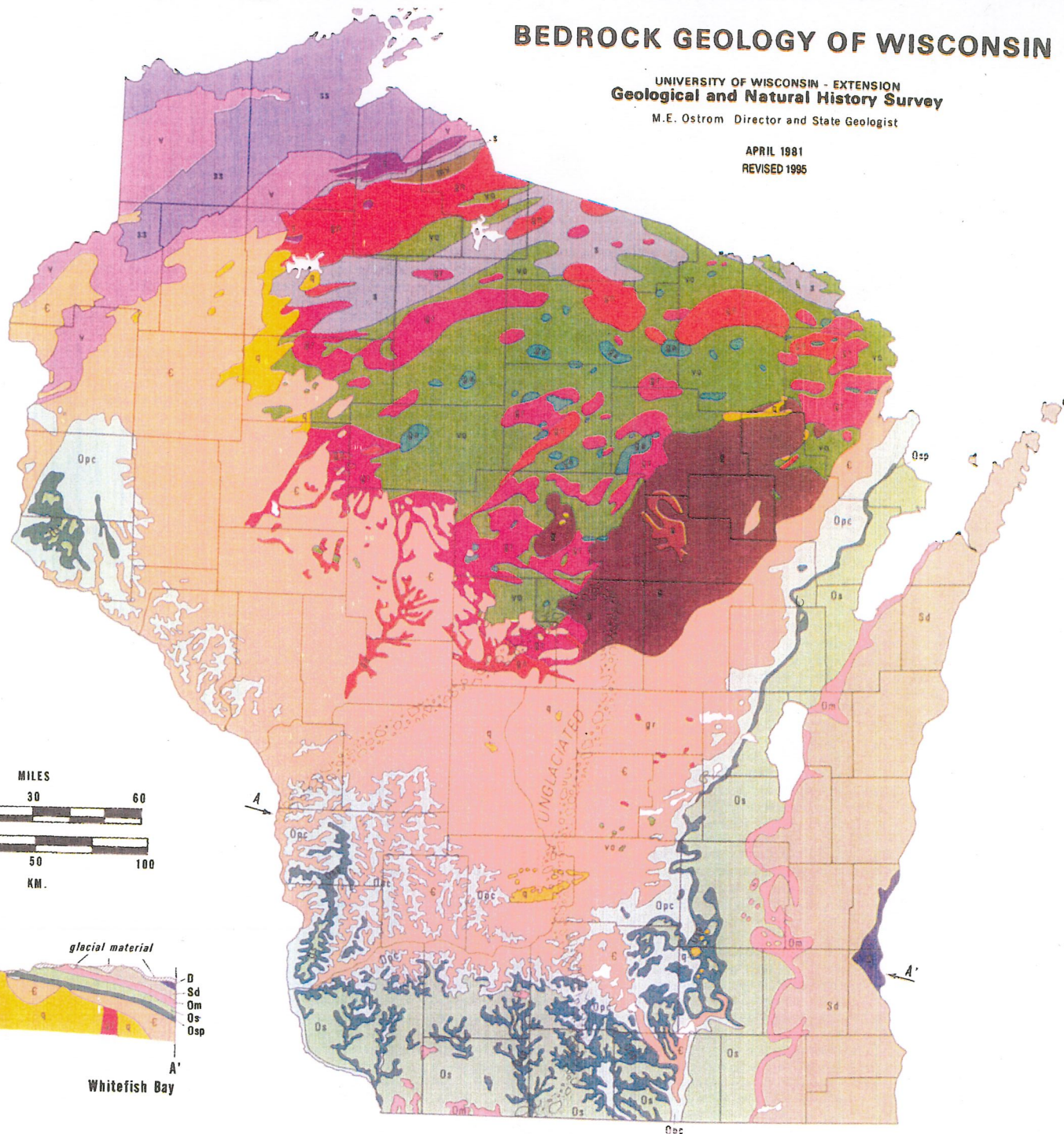
mv, metavolcanic rocks  
gn, granite, gneiss and amphibolite



# BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF WISCONSIN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION  
Geological and Natural History Survey  
M.E. Ostrom Director and State Geologist

APRIL 1981  
REVISED 1995

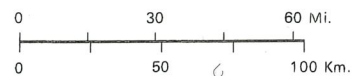




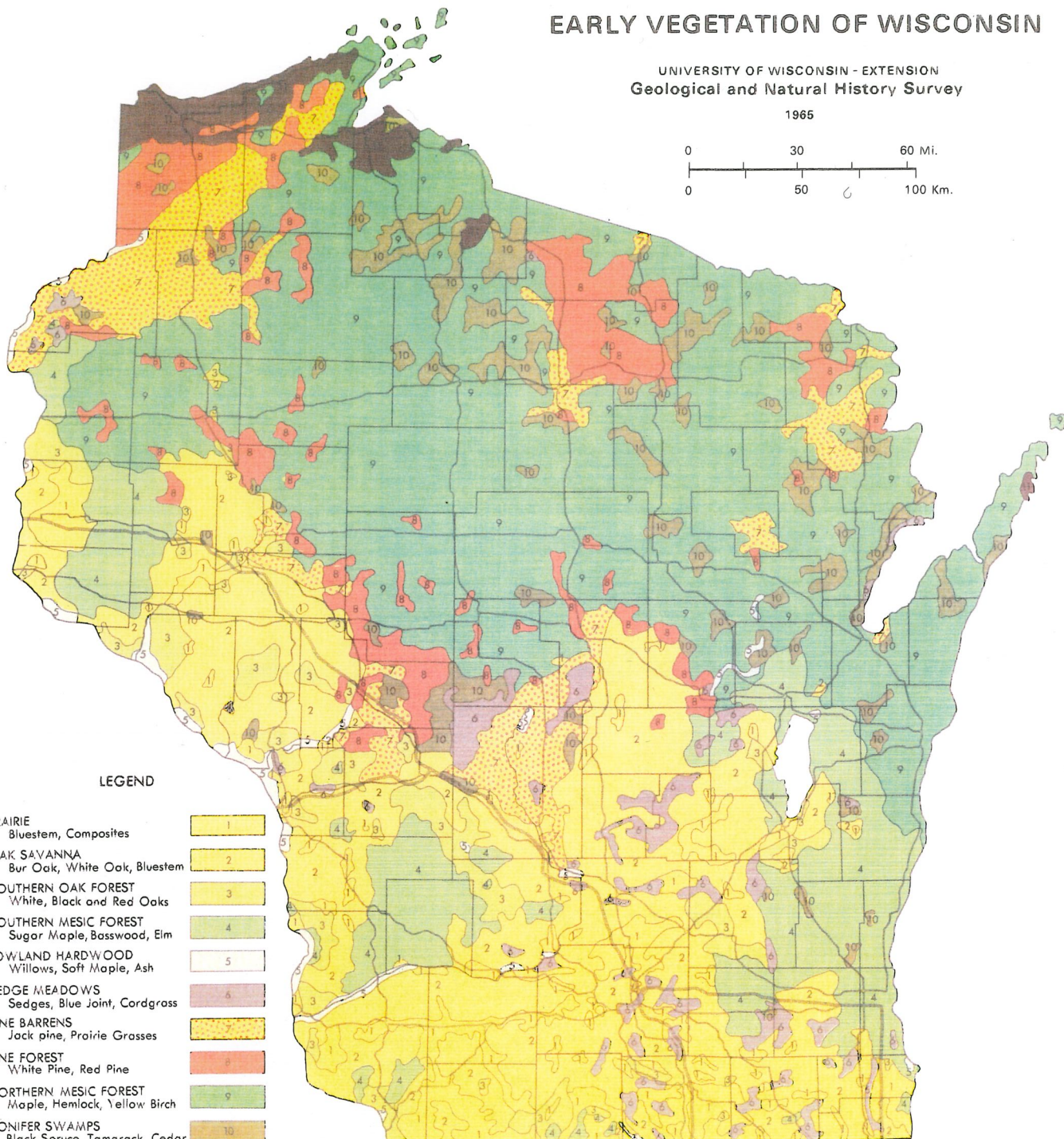
# EARLY VEGETATION OF WISCONSIN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION  
Geological and Natural History Survey

1965



- LEGEND**
- PRAIRIE**  
Bluestem, Composites
  - OAK SAVANNA**  
Bur Oak, White Oak, Bluestem
  - SOUTHERN OAK FOREST**  
White, Black and Red Oaks
  - SOUTHERN MESIC FOREST**  
Sugar Maple, Basswood, Elm
  - LOWLAND HARDWOOD**  
Willows, Soft Maple, Ash
  - SEDGE MEADOWS**  
Sedges, Blue Joint, Cordgrass
  - PINE BARRENS**  
Jack pine, Prairie Grasses
  - PINE FOREST**  
White Pine, Red Pine
  - NORTHERN MESIC FOREST**  
Maple, Hemlock, Yellow Birch
  - CONIFER SWAMPS**  
Black Spruce, Tamarack, Cedar
  - BOREAL FOREST**  
Balsam Fir, White Spruce



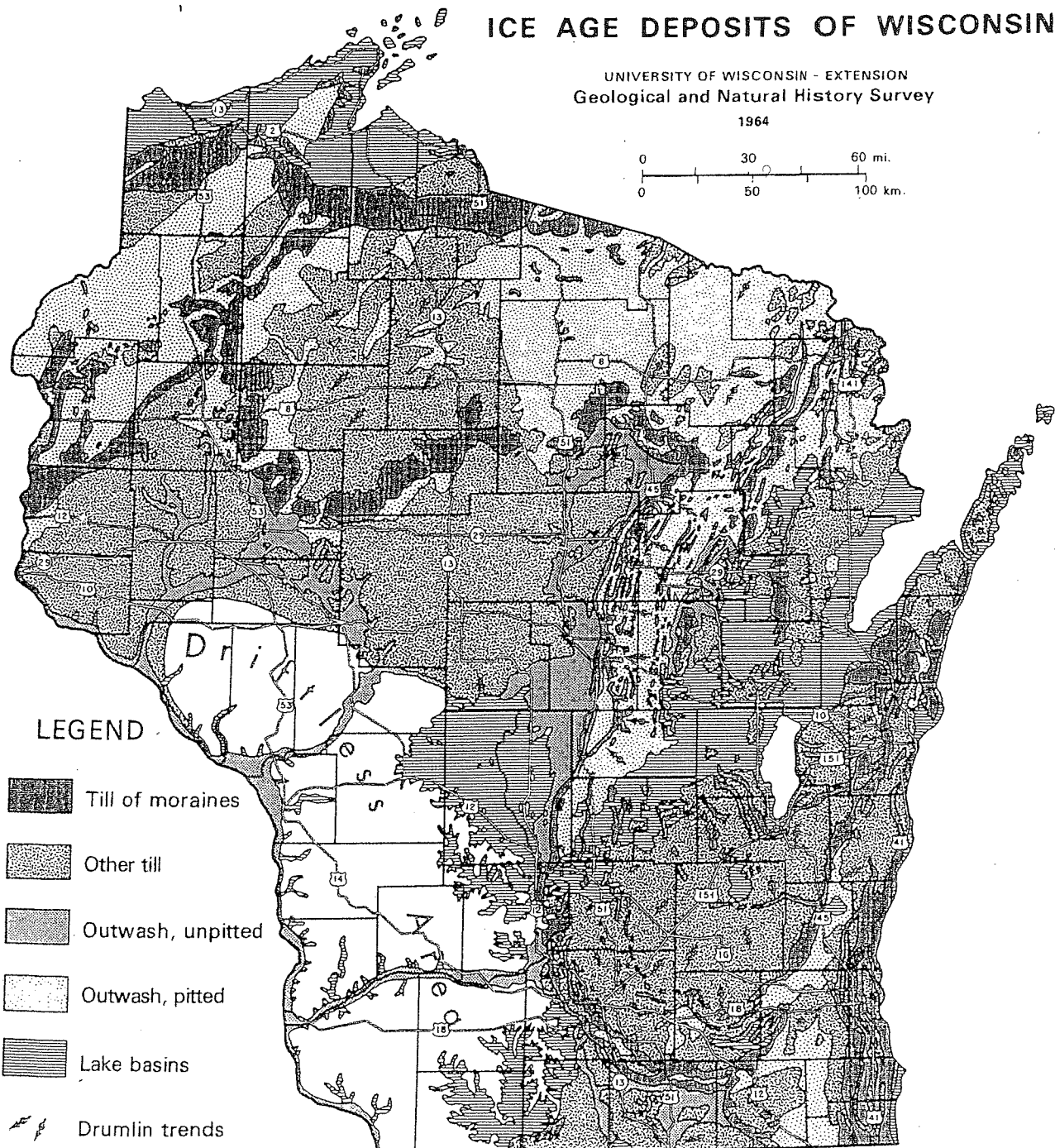
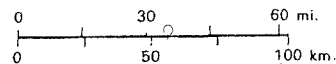




Map courtesy of Hammond Inc., Maplewood, N. J.

# ICE AGE DEPOSITS OF WISCONSIN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION  
Geological and Natural History Survey  
1964



## LEGEND

- Till of moraines
- Other till
- Outwash, unpitted
- Outwash, pitted
- Lake basins
- Drumlin trends

from Thwaites, 1956

modified, 1985



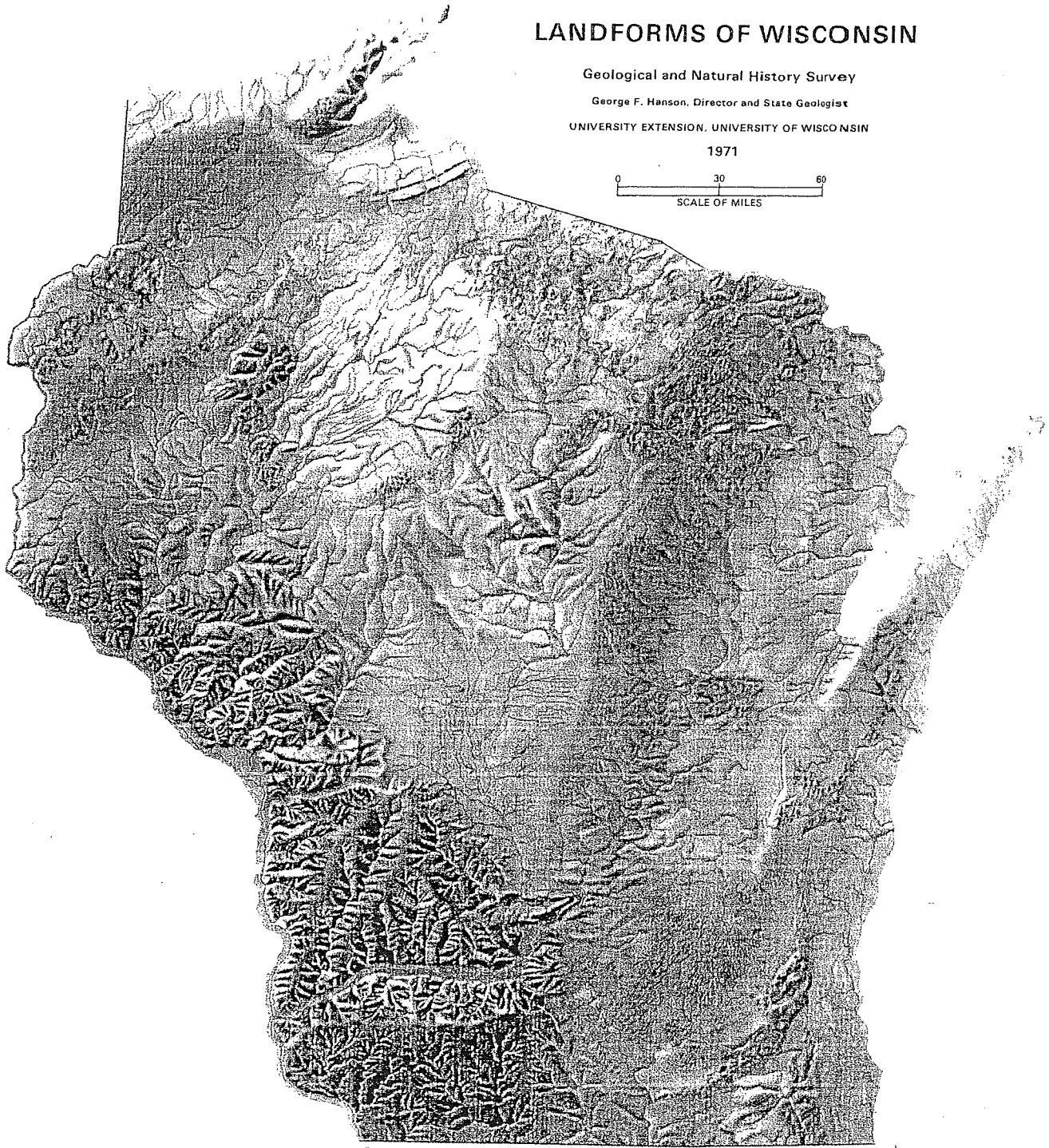
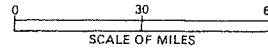
# LANDFORMS OF WISCONSIN

Geological and Natural History Survey

George F. Hanson, Director and State Geologist

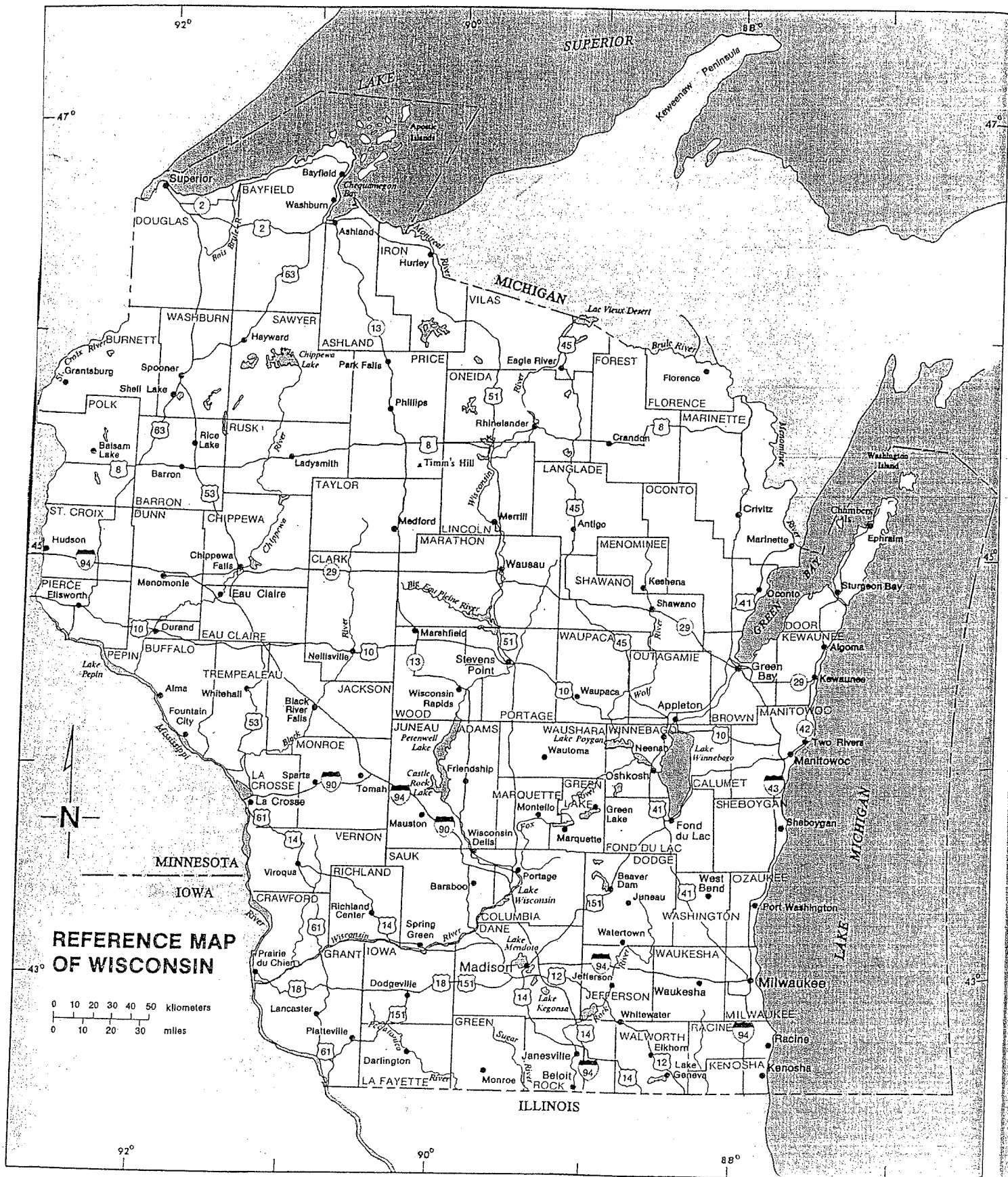
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

1971

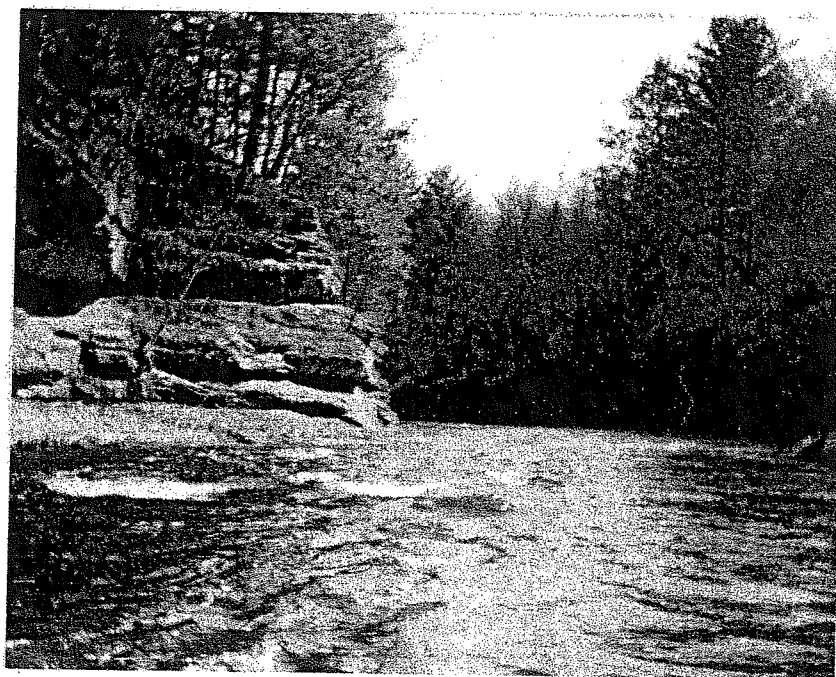
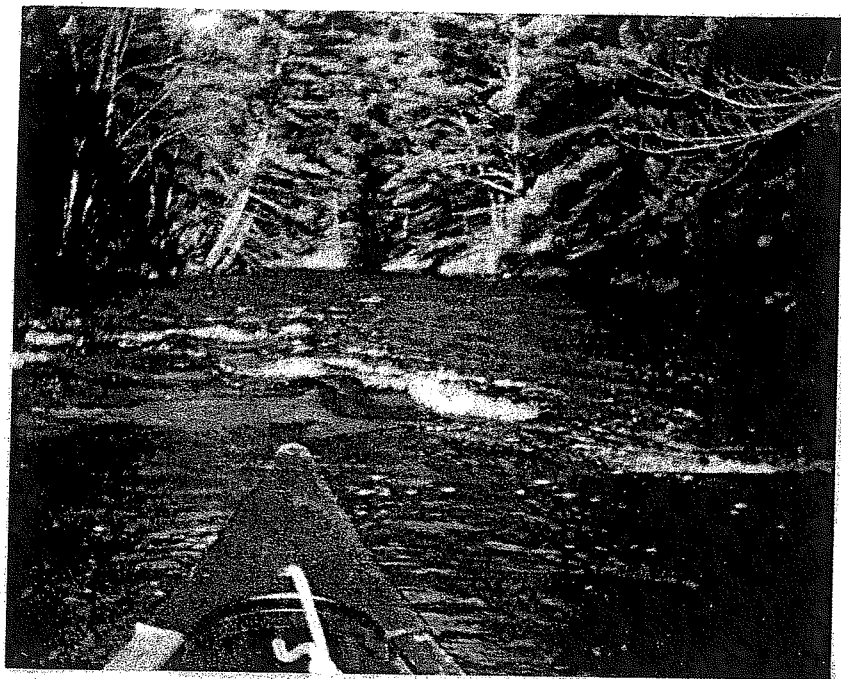


Revised by David A. Woodward

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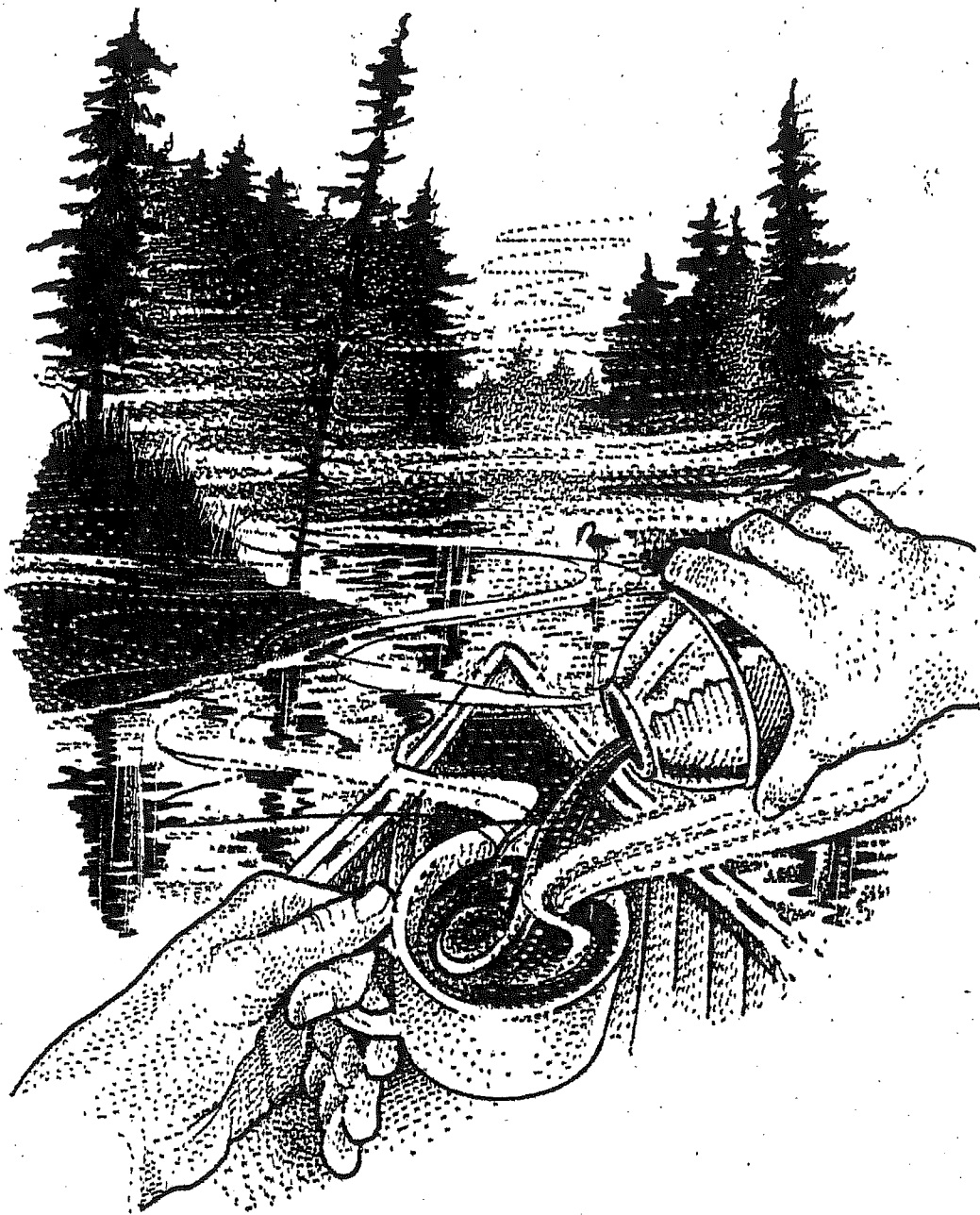


\*\*\* NEW ADDITIONS \*\*\*

NAME	LOCATION	TYPE	DIFFICULTY
APPLE RIVER	WC WI	WW/QW	I, II
BAD RIVER	CN WI	WW	III, IV
BLACK RIVER	NC WI	QW/WW	I, II
COPPER RIVER	NC WI	QW/WW	II, III
EAU CLAIRE R., North Branch	C WI	QW	II
EAU CLAIRE R., South Branch	C WI	QW/WW	III
ELK RIVER	NC WI	QW/WW	III
EMBARRASS RIVER	C WI	QW	I
FISHER RIVER	NWC WI	QW/WW	III
JUMP R., North Fork	NC WI	QW/WW	III
JUMP R., South Fork	NC WI	QW	II
MARENGO RIVER	CN WI	QW	I
NEW WOOD RIVER	NC WI	QW/WW	II
PINE RIVER	EC WI	QW	II
SPIRIT RIVER	NC WI	QW/WW	II, III
WILLOW RIVER	WC WI	QW/WW	III







*Stream:* **Apple River**

Atlas & Gaz: 71, B5

Put-in: CTH C bridge in Little Falls at intersection with CTH PP

Take out: STH 65, use small access, RB along Random Dr, shortly above bridge

Travel Time: 2-3 Hr

Features: FABULOUS trip with great variety including some **mean whitewater!** Very secluded. Scenic lichen and moss covered bluffs with a mixture of hardwoods and pines above the rapids. Lush woods of maples and other hardwoods filled with singing birds in late May/early June. Marsh section lined with tall grass, attended by sedge wrens and guarded by big slider turtles which crash into the water from their muddy resting places as you approach. Eagle, wading deer common, otters likely present, observed an osprey, ducks, geese, bear habitat. This stream has classic pools, riffles and luring deep holes that go black. Very good water clarity, most notable in shallower lower section of long runs, weedy at times due to light penetration. Excellent for watching for fish and minnows. Those big fish you see in the runs are not trout - they are suckers. Passes by impressive wildlife viewing/hunting enclosed platform, LB, very high up on stilts overlooking marsh. AND passes by spectacular 100' pure sandy bluff, RB complete with a community of bank swallows and a very appealing, exclusive, deep swimming hole with a sandy bottom, could be great way to cool off on a hot summer day. There are also some stretches of shallow sandy runs, fine for summertime wading. (Watch out for big suckers that like big toes). You might also want to be careful of the 25 lb musky I practically grazed with my canoe in this section, no doubt waiting for a dumb sucker to swim by. He didn't seem too worried about me, moved not an inch!

This is a great trip to take kids on to watch for eagles, fish and turtles and listen to birds, walk along some roaring whitewater, take a dip, cast a line and otherwise enjoy nature. Entirely undeveloped. *A small slice of paddling paradise pie*

Cautions, Hazards: Steep, 100' rocky slope at put in, lower boat down carefully by rope into swift water underneath bridge. Get ready and prepare yourself for some very challenging WW in this most upper section. It starts out seductively and tamely enough with a lucious rapid of a couple grade I and grade II brief drops over ledges along a gorgeous gorge splattered with a few pines above, steer clear of hanging branches. No problem, just fun and very pretty. Then soon after comes a very thrilling, ferocious grade II-III drop along another beautiful bluff. Scout ahead first. Runnable down the center if not too rocky or line your boat along the shore, steep, high banks prohibit a portage. So far so good but please be very wary of the next drop. It has a keeper hole at the bottom of an abrupt 4-5' drop and should not be run by open canoes! Too risky for flipping and sticking. Play it safe and possibly spare a long walk out. Line your canoe along the left bank past the monster and slide it back in to run the remaining riffles. Great pool below. Light rapids continue for a short while then things calm down considerably into a leisurely flatwater trip. No log jams or other obstacles to worry about. Good depth and width. Last several miles are plentiful in delightful, shallow rocky swifts you should be able to float over in the spring. Passes under 150th St bridge midway, an optional put in to avoid the WW. Don't recall seeing a cabin on this trip. Did not encounter any wading fishermen, not much shore access available for them. No log jams encountered.

*Author's note:* I knew I should have asked the manager at the sport shop in Star Prairie what those WW canoes on his truck outside in the lot were for. Boy was I surprised! Little did I know the Apple River had some great rapids, albeit brief. I confess I didn't know it had muskies either!



*Stream:* **Apple River**

Atlas & Gaz: 70, B4

Put-in: STH 65 bridge, RB along Random Drive, 300' above bridge

Take out: Star Prairie Bridge (CTH M) in Star Prairie City Park

Travel Time: 3-4 Hr

Features: Wonderful, delightful trip suitable for family or small group with great opportunity for wildlife viewing and peaceful relaxation enjoying natural beauty of long serene stretches of undeveloped shores of maples, beeches and other hardwoods. Good width and depth. Some stretches of pure sand bottom, fine for summertime wading in clear, clean looking water. Songbirds very numerous and fill the air with melodies; eagle, ducks, geese, hawks, wading deer common, otters present. Passes by marsh area with tall grassy banks; sedge wrens and crashing slider turtles. Sighted four trumpeter swans here!

Charming park at takeout; quaint, small town of Star Prairie including a sport, paddle and bike shop definitely worth a visit.

Cautions, Hazards: Generally a very easy trip with leisurely paddling and decent water levels, suitable for novice. No log jams to carry around but will have to negotiate a path through a few in upper section. No rapids of any kind other than some easy fun swift water through some gentle boulder gardens. Mostly fast water below Church Rd. One divergence of channel, left blocked by deadfalls but right channel open, no problems. A couple quiet cabins at town road, RB; A few homes and brief view of farm at Church Rd bridge.

*Author's note:* Shortly after I put in I heard a great commotion back in the woods of barking and howling dogs. I figured they must have cornered some unlucky bear on one of their summertime training romps. Bear hunting is very popular up here.

*Stream:* **Bad River**

Atlas & Gaz: 95, B7

Put-in: Conley Road Bridge/ Forest Road 184

Take-out: Mellen city Park/ STH 13

Travel Time: 4-5 Hr

Features: Absolutely gorgeous and awe inspiring section of some of the most rugged and beautiful river shoreline features found anywhere in Wisconsin! A great chance to experience a water trail similar to one that might be encountered deep in the Canadian wilderness. Three cascading waterfalls through scenic gorges similar to the ones found farther downstream in Copper Falls State Park but not as extreme. Multiple sections of rocky rapids up to class III. Primarily a spruce forest with birch, maple and hemlock, some pines. Eagle country. Great northwoods wildlife habitat through a dense section of the Chequamegon National Forest and the ancient Penokee range. Very remote with no development along the banks until you near Mellen. Water color is stained dark but very clean looking with good clarity up close.

\* Be sure to take some time to visit some nearby popular attractions of great natural beauty such as Copper Falls State Park; the North Country Trail - check out the roadside display and hike up to the lookout over the Penokee Range just down the road, west on GG from Mellen; Hike up to St. Peter's Dome for spectacular views stretching northward to Lake Superior; Spend a few serene hours paddling quietly on lovely little Caroline Lake, a few miles southeast.

Cautions, Hazards: EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT WILDERNESS WHITEWATER TRIP FOR ADVANCED PADDLERS ONLY, EXPERIENCED IN RUGGED WILDERNESS WATER TRAILS TRAVEL. SHOULD BE IN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL CONDITION. Best done with a small, lightweight WW boat easy to carry and fit through tight spots between boulders and tightly spaced trees. Make sure water levels are high enough to avoid too bumpy a ride. To put in, slide your boat down 30 ft of gravel trail, LB above the FR bridge and with the RR bridge on your immediate right. The Iron River enters here under the RR bridge. You could easily paddle upstream on the Bad here for a while to cast for trout since it looks very gentle until it meanders out of sight. Very soon after heading down you will encounter some moderate grade I and II rapids not too hard to run. BUT THEN BEWARE and take EXTREME CAUTION!! The roar you hear is the beginning of an unrunnable class V cascading waterfalls through a vertically ledged gorge with no portage trail and no shores serviceable for lining. Talk about a worst case scenario! Your only option is to bust your way through the bush of dense spruce up a very steep slope over rugged terrain along the right bank for about 100 yards to the end of the cascading falls then lower it back in. Please be aware that this is a very difficult and strenuous "portage". Take heart that if you made it this far the worst is over but also take heed because there is certainly more difficulty ahead to overcome! Next is a few more grade I-II rapids plus a grade III roaring drop. Gorge #2 with its class IV-V cascades appears next but you can joyfully slide/carry your canoe right down the shoreline ledges of the right bank which make for a great place to relax, lunch and take some photos. Next is another good batch of grade I-II rocky rapids and another grade III hellraiser. The third and last gorge dams up the river behind it into a beautiful, large and deep pool. No such luck with slidable ledges this time - pull ashore along the RB and carry your boat along a rough "trail" past a campsite (ATV) and lower it back in below the falls. Don't think about running them, this is a must portage also. Follows is more typical rocky rapids until you reach CTH GG and then relax because there is clear sailing the rest of the



## SMALL RIVER CANOE ADVENTURES OF WISCONSIN

way with only swifts and light rapids until the take-out in Mellen. You will probably hear traffic as you near GG. There is one divergence of channel as you approach Mellen around a large island, the left channel was OK but the right looked snaggy. You may see and hear a water siphoning and return system of some sort along the LB as you near town. One last light rapids before you pass under a town road bridge just above the city park. The STH 13 bridge is just a few feet farther. Take out at the city park, LB, up a steep muddy 10' bank to the lot above the bridge. By all means stop in the local store and get yourself an ice cream treat or something after this one - you deserve it! \* The locals say they use a put-in on CTH GG below all the falls and rapids at the old dynamite storage shed but I sure couldn't find it! There are no log jams on this trip. \* Please note that there are multiple RR bridges to pass under on this trip including one just before the first and most dangerous falls. I suppose you could walk out here along the RR tracks if you just couldn't make it past the falls. I believe that would be illegal but at least you'd still be alive to pay the fine.

*Author's note:* Something told me that as I entered the local gas and cigarette store very early that morning to get some coffee and a doughnut I should have asked the four local old-timers chit-chatting at the table if they could tell me what this section of river was like because I really had no idea at all except of course I knew that Copper Falls State Park was just downstream. Certainly it wouldn't be like that would it?? In such an isolated section with no public access roads convenient for visitors and tourists to enjoy it? I guess I just hoped it wouldn't be that bad and I was afraid that if it was those four wise men would warn me solemnly not to run it and then I would either chicken out or jinx myself by ignoring them. So I didn't ask. Please don't follow my bad example - always try to get information about unfamiliar water before you run it! This trip definitely had me seriously worried for awhile! And don't run it alone - bring a buddy!

*Stream:* **Bad River**

Atlas & Gaz: 95, B7

Put-in: City Park, Mellen/STH 13 Bridge

Take-out: Copper Falls State Park Picnic Grounds

Travel Time: 4-5 Hr

Features: Fabulous WW Trip suitable for intermediate WW Paddlers through some very beautiful and unspoiled country including a long, wild section through gorgeous Copper Falls State Park. Spectacular scenery beneath towering pine-covered bluffs and 100 ft high exposed sandy cliffs. Red Granite Falls. Hiking the Park Waterfalls Trail is an absolute must! Some of the most spectacular scenery in all of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest. Other natural wonders to visit nearby are St. Peter's Dome, the North Country Trailhead along HWY GG just west of Mellen and a quiet wilderness paddle on pretty little Caroline Lake, just SE a few miles of town.

Cautions, Hazards: THERE IS EXTREME DANGER AT THE TAKE-OUT - IF YOU MISS IT YOU MAY POSSIBLY BE SWEEPED OVER COPPER FALLS TO CERTAIN DEATH!! TAKE EXTREME CAUTION TO TAKE OUT ABOVE THE FOOT BRIDGE OVERLOOKING COPPER FALLS. DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS TRIP UNDER LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS AS DARK APPROACHES. This is not a good choice for an after work trip! Immediately below the put-in at the city park you pass under the 13 bridge followed very soon by the STH 77 bridge then a RR bridge. Soon after is a real nice class II rapids above the ball field diamond, then an easy swift. For a mile or two the river is slow and deep thru a quiet hardwood forest with several maple deadfalls to carry around or negotiate a path thru. Passes under the lightly traveled STH 169 bridge in this section. Then the current quickens to swifts and light rapids until you reach Copper Falls State Park. TAKE EXTREME CAUTION AS RED GRANITE FALLS APPROACHES!

When you see the vertical ledge rising high up along the left bank it is time to get out! Pull over to the right bank. You will have to haul your boat up the hill through the woods about 100 yd. to the park hiking trail, pretty easy to find. Portage along this trail for a bit then continue along the dirt road following the power line until the roar of the falls decreases to a light sound of riffles and bust your way back in through the woods to the river. About a quarter of a mile portage total. Please avoid trespassing on the cabin property - put-in above it. It is wise to scout out this portage ahead of time. From here down to Copper Falls is a long WW stretch of several miles of wonderful grade I-II rapids suitable for intermediately skilled paddlers. Continuous rocky runs in swift water connected by calm pools. You will pass under several towering bluffs and cliffs as you approach Copper Falls. **USE EXTREME CAUTION AS YOU NEAR THE TAKEOUT!**

Look for a high sandy bluff along the left bank, this is your landmark for taking out on the right bank at a park access road to the picnic area which is very hard to see from the river (I totally missed it!) By this time or immediately after you should see the foot bridge across the river used for viewing Copper Falls. Above this footbridge is the concession stand along the right bank, you can just see the top of the building as you come near - **GET OUT NOW!** if you haven't already. This is a difficult take-out up a steep bank up to the lot through the bushes where you will probably startle people relaxing at the concession shelter. (I took out here to onlooker's curious gazes). There is one last opportunity to get out before tumbling over the falls but it is extremely risky but should nevertheless be mentioned because it could certainly prevent



## SMALL RIVER CANOE ADVENTURES OF WISCONSIN

catastrophe. Your only hope now is to run a violent class II-III drop under the foot bridge and immediately take-out along the right bank where there is a lovely little heaven-sent sandy beach and stairs. Immediately past this point the river bends sharply and plunges over Copper Falls and the remaining falls of the Park - an awesome spectacle.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO SCOUT THE TAKE-OUT AND BECOME VERY FAMILIAR WITH IT. A mistake here could cost you your life and ruin it for everyone else too if it becomes off limits to paddlers. Be sure to stop by the office and ask to speak with Ranger Kent who will be glad to provide you with his expert advise on how to run this section and please thank him again for helping me.

\* If you are interested in continuing on down past the Park where the Bad joins up with the Marengo and Potato Rivers you can do so by portaging about 2/3 of a mile along the waterfalls viewing trail down the stairs to a sandy beach landing. This lower section runs through the Bad River Indian Reservation so you should get permission from their tribal office before running it. Keep in mind that this is a pristine area and they are very sensitive to any intrusion upon it so please approach this issue gingerly and respectfully.

*Author's note:* I was probably a little fatigued from my morning's trip (Wow, two hair-raising waterfalls trips in one day!) down the Bad (see previous section above Mellen) and so nervous about this one and pressed for time that I forgot about the high sandy bluff at the take-out and never saw the road landing along the right bank. I saw the foot bridge above Copper Falls, got pretty scared, then saw the top of the concession building and hauled myself and my boat the heck out of there just in time! Please don't copy my bad example. On retrospect, I wished I would have parked my car right at the river's edge at the take-out so it would be easy to see as I approached and sure urge you to do the same!

*Stream:* **Black River**

Atlas & Gaz: 75, D5

Put-in: STH 64 bridge/CTH E Ldg

Take out: Division Rd Bridge

Travel Time: 2 Hr

Take out: Sawyer Road Bridge

Travel Time: 3 Hr

Take out: STH 64 metal bridge along FR 117

Travel Time: 4 Hr

Features: Excellent small river trip with intimate, secluded, adventurous and wilderness-like quality in a northwoods/agricultural environment with uninterrupted forest habitat along the shore for miles at a time. Very lightly traveled. Just one cabin was sighted from put-in to Division Rd, about 4 or 5 miles. Stained water color, sandy bottom, bottom woodland habitat predominates. Brief stretch of fun fast water and one good rapids last section. Mostly hardwoods like maple plus a few spruce and hemlock. Songbirds abundant, eagle, hawk, ducks, deer, common; otters present.

Cautions, Hazards: Shortly after put-in the river is divided, the right channel is plagued with log jams to be carried around, try the left channel instead. The first section is slow and deep with twisting bends and occasional narrow divergent channels. Below Sawyer Road the river becomes swift with riffles and light rapids. Just above the STH 64 bridge takeout is a grade II bouldery rapids, best run down the center. Mosquitos can be bad while paddling, take precautions.

*Author's note:* It always seems that the most dangerous part of any river trip for me is when I'm riding my bike down busy highways to shuttle back to my car with my back helplessly turned to oncoming traffic. I just hope those three laughing young toughs in an ugly old beater who layed on the horn and feigned to ram me ... well I just hope that their motor dies before someone else does!



*Stream:* **Black River**

Atlas & Gaz: 74, D4

Put-in: STH 64 metal bridge

Take out: CTH A bridge

Travel Time: 3 Hr

Take out: Bridge Rd bridge

Travel Time: 4 Hr

Features: A true gem of the north! Outstanding fast water trip with continuous swift current, riffles and light rapids suitable for novice. Adventurous and fun with excellent undisturbed northwoods shoreline habitat for miles without any sign of development, secluded and very lightly traveled. Roomy enough for a small group trip. Helpful current makes for pleasant paddling. Saw no cabin for 4 or 5 miles after put-in. High quality scenery of northern hardwoods, mostly maple, some white birch, spruce, a few pines and cedar. Excellent songbird habitat, eagle, hawks, owls, ducks, common, otters likely. Large island to possibly explore or rough camp above CTH A, please be kind to shoreland habitat.

Cautions, Hazards: Broad main channel with occasional narrow divergent channels but no blockages due to log jams, a few narrow chutes however. Numerous sweepers in fast water of outside bends, stay inside to steer clear of them. Wind exposure where channel broadens at times. Lots of fast water with intermittent riffles and light rapids, nothing above grade I. Water level was good, no scraping; ran in late May, check for good water levels later in season. RR bridge signals last takeout is near. Above Hwy A the river separates into two narrow divergent channels a very long way around a large, wooded island for about a mile then rejoins just as a couple houses appear at CTH A bridge. I took the right channel and it was fine with no logs blocking the way but was pretty narrow in spots.

*Author's note:* 5 AM that morning I slowed down on STH 64 to approach a bear cub standing in the woods and looking confused. I soon discovered why. His brother lay dead on the side of the road, it must have happened just a moment or so earlier. What a sorrowful look of anguish and fear on that poor cub's face as he scampered off into the woods then turned his head around to watch me pass. We need to slow down at dawn and dusk and watch out for wildlife.

*Stream:* **Copper River**

Atlas & Gaz: 76, C2

Put-in: Forks Rd Bridge

Take out: CTH E Bridge

Travel Time: 3 Hr

Take out: Alexander Lake Dam

Travel Time: 4 Hr

Features: Small, quickly moving rocky stream with good wilderness like quality in stretches through the backwoods of Lincoln county that borders a large wild area. Some real nice stretches of pretty northwoods riverbank scenery of cedars, spruce and occasional large pines.

Intermittently interrupted by single properties with homes or farms along the right bank but long undeveloped stretches in between. The left bank for the most part is entirely natural deep woods, not developed. The put-in at Forks Rd is wild-like in appearance, slow, narrow and deep with brushy banks. Soon the river becomes shallow and rocky for the rest of the way. There is a gorgeous gorge and very rocky dells below the Hwy E bridge. Deer common along left bank, good songbird habitat, eagles, hawks present. Wolves and bears probably nearby to the north.

Cautions, Hazards:

This river is much too shallow and rocky to run when water levels are down. It should only be attempted when levels are high such as in early spring. It would probably be best to use solo canoes or kayaks in lieu of tandems. The final section below Hwy E is extremely rocky and nearly impassable for a full sized canoe. (It definitely tested me and my banged up Camper to the limits as I raced to the lake and takeout to beat a storm.) There is room however to line it or carry along the left bank until the flatwater mercifully appears after this very long, very dense boulder garden. Brief lake canoeing subject to wind along the shore of Alexander Lake to the boat landing, RB, near the dam. There are no beaver dams or downfalls or any other obstacles to block passage. One rock dam with a narrow chute along a property. Rocky swifts are numerous. Take out at the E bridge to avoid the dells. You could probably paddle upstream from the lake to view them.

*Author's note:* My relatives will probably never know that lingering with them that morning used up precious time and caused me to rush through a hazardous final section in an unwise and angry manner that almost wrecked me and my canoe as both daylight and safe weather were fleeting. (Whoops!, I suppose they do now.) Don't follow my bad example, don't ever sacrifice good judgment when paddling, especially if alone and in a difficult situation.



*Stream:* **Eau Claire River, North Branch, upper section**

*Atlas & Gaz:* 62, B1

*Put-in:* CTH MM bridge

*Take-out:* Wilson Park

*Travel Time:* 3hr

*Features:* Excellent, quiet, secluded trip with wilderness atmosphere and feeling of intimacy with natural surroundings and solitude along a generous stretch of several miles of deeply wooded, undeveloped shores of Eau Claire Co Forest. High, abrupt banks of hardwoods with occasional pines. Sand and gravel bottom with muddy banks. Winding, twisting channel. Deer abundant, wood ducks, mergansers common, very good songbird habitat. Great chance to see family of otters! Nearby camping at Wilson Park. Large county forest area to explore.

*Cautions, Hazards:* Because of numerous logjams to carry around up high muddy banks, this trip is physically strenuous and demands good fitness and strength to enjoy. Good paddling skills are needed to negotiate fallen branches and numerous sweepers in tight outside bends. First mile or so there are several bad log jams to carry around then mostly clear sailing rest of way except for a downed large log blocking passage in fast water then one or two more bad log jams to lift around. Channel broadens near CTH bridge as Wolf River enters. (no, not that one, this Wolf River is much smaller). Use marker at takeout which is nearly impossible to see from the water. Next stop is Hamilton Falls. No rapids but numerous swifts. Paddle when water levels are up. Popular ATV area with extensive trail system and campground. Avoid them by paddling in early spring. Easy bike shuttle.

*Author's note:* Don't ever set your paddles down on the grass away from your car while you're loading up to head home unless you plan to make them a donation. I sure hope whoever found them is enjoying using them!

*Stream:* **Eau Claire River, South Branch, upper section**

Atlas & Gaz: 62, B2

Put-in: CTH M bridge

Take out: Dickerson Ave bridge

Travel Time: 1 hr

Take out: Butler Lane Ldg

Travel Time: 4hr

Features: Outstanding, adventurous trip with excellent wilderness-like quality with miles of undeveloped, secluded, deeply wooded shores entirely through Eau Claire Co Forest. High wooded banks of hardwoods with occasional large pines. Winding, twisting channel in upper section above Dickerson bridge then more broad and directional below. Sand and gravel bottom with occasional S & G bars also. Excellent habitat for songbirds and wildlife. Deer abundant, wood ducks, mergansers common, mussels. Very good chance to see otters! Spectacular rapids below Dickerson bridge with campsite along shore. Eau Claire Co Forest provides a large wilderness quality area to explore and enjoy. Camping nearby at Wilson Park.

Cautions, Hazards: The only hazard in the most upper section is maneuvering around fallen branches and avoiding sweepers in sharply curved outside bends. Good width and depth. No bad log jams or rapids.

Below Dickerson bridge about a mile is a very hazardous, very long and difficult, rocky, bouldery rapids, class II-III that should be rough portaged around through the woods (no trail) along the left bank above where the first sounds and signs of the rapids appear as river narrows and shores become rocky with large pines. No one should attempt to run these rapids except properly equipped, advanced WW paddlers in kayaks or WW playboats during periods of high water levels. Carefully scout along the left bank. There are four main drops. The first is a rocky class I-II followed soon after by a very boulder infested class II with only a narrow, hard to see chute that may tip your canoe (did me!). If you are still afloat, the third drop is the worst! Very high and very bouldery and violent class III drop, hard to navigate and empties directly into a very fast bend that funnels you into a final roaring class II drop guarded steadfastly by an ominous, large boulder that divides its precipice. If you're crazy enough to try it in the spring make sure to wear a wetsuit and helmet and have help available in case of a tipover and swim. Good Luck! Below the final drop is a good put-in after portaging. Shortly later is a series of bad log jams that must be carried around up high banks. No further difficulties or obstacles. Look for fast water at the takeout, LB where ATV trail ends each side, no bridge. Very popular ATV area with extensive trail system and campground. Avoid them by doing trip in early spring.

*Author's note:* Strange circumstances and coincidences, my how they combine to get you! This was my very first water with my new canoe fresh from Canoeopia which felt a little tippy with the V bottom and slight rocker as I first hopped in it on this river. Until now I had always used a wide, flat bottom, fishing or recreational canoe and I just wasn't comfortable with handling it yet. So naturally right away I was encountered with a long difficult roaring grade II-III rapids I didn't even know was there and certainly didn't expect and with no good portage trail either. Tried to run it, got stuck on a ledge, turned sideways then backwards and finally rolled over and gave my hip boots a good drink! My left boot got caught in the seat as I tried to get out and get myself and my boat to shore before the next big drop which might have done me in. I didn't see any light filled tunnel but I did think briefly about one for a second or two. I made it to shore with my new boat and its first scratches. It was a warm and sunny day in April, I dried off and portaged the remaining whitewater. I gave my new boat a real good workout the next weekend on some flatwater practicing all my WW paddling strokes and learning to lean it hard without tipping until I felt confident and comfortable with it. Always test paddle a new boat on familiar water before trying new water with it.



*Stream:* **Elk River**

Atlas & Gaz: 87, B7

Put-in: FR 136 Bridge

Take out: FR 131 Bridge

Travel Time: 3-4 Hr

Features: Difficult, rugged trip via intimate, small channel through wild, secluded, natural area of Chequamegon National Forest. Excellent wilderness quality and good northwoods scenery of maples, birch, spruce, occasional large pine, good wildlife habitat. Songbirds abundant, eagle, deer, bear, common; moose have been sighted here also.

Cautions, Hazards: Begins nicely enough as narrow, calm, gentle current with easy passage then shortly after is a bad deadfall snag followed by a fast, difficult dense boulder garden in fast water. [I was about to turn back at this point fearing it just wouldn't be possible to complete the trip but Mark and his lovely family were fishing at the hole just above and he graciously allowed me to carry around this mess along his cabin property and advised it would get better downstream. Please thank Mark again for me if you see him and tell him "*I made it*".] After this bad spot the conditions improve nicely along non-woody grassy banks and easy paddling. The trip ends with a very long dense boulder garden, very difficult in low water, wading likely. This trip is best done with a small, tough plastic canoe, easy to lift over logs and float over rocks. Need good water levels!

*Stream:* **Embarrass River**

Atlas & Gaz: 66, D3

Put-in: CTH XX bridge

Take out: CTH F bridge

Travel Time: 3 hr

Features: Peaceful and quiet trip for several hours of flatwater travel through the pastoral, central Wisconsin countryside along wooded banks uninterrupted by any parallel roads or bridges. Farms may occasionally be seen in the background behind the woods. Only twice is there an intrusion of a home with a boat dock at the end of town roads but the river is unsuitable for boat traffic due to navigation hazards of branches and shallows. Broad channel and helpful current with a nice sandy bottom and many lovely overhanging hardwoods. Water somewhat silty. Deer and ducks, woodpeckers common. Scenery not terribly inspiring but presents a good opportunity for solitude and relaxation, cool wading in summer. The next section looks more promising for wildlife with deeper woods and better wetland habitat.

Cautions, Hazards: None other than navigating many fallen branches but there is ample room to maneuver around them. No fast water or log jams to portage around, just one large tree in a narrow section that almost made a carry necessary. General farm operations nearby.

*Author's note:* What the heck do you do with a big trout you caught in the fall and kept in the freezer all winter long hoping for a chance to both show it off and cook it as a special gourmet meal to share with someone but you just never got the chance and so by March its color and texture is not fit for either? Well I don't really know so I took it with me in a cooler on this trip and gently slid it under the thickest log jam I could find, safe from predators, with my apologies, to let it decompose back to the earth via water as peacefully as possible.



*Stream:* **Embarrass River**

Atlas & Gaz: 54, A3

Put-in: STH 76 Bridge

Take out: Spur Road Bridge

Travel Time: 3 - 4 Hr

Features: Lovely, moving, flatwater trip through an extensive hardwood bottomlands area of good wildlife habitat surrounded by gentle farm country. Peaceful and quiet reflective paddling down an intimate stream that winds and twists under a canopy of overhanging maples and willows. Very lightly traveled. Long stretch of several miles or more of heavily wooded banks without any sign of development other than an occasional deer hunting stand or farm in distance. Songbirds very common, deer, muskrat, hawks, owls. Sandy bottom, wide and deep, somewhat silty water color. Perhaps the best stretch of the entire Embarrass river for pleasant, casual canoeing with natural scenery, much nicer than previous section.

Cautions, Hazards: Many downed trees and branches but ample room to maneuver past or through all with the exception of one bad jam far downstream with only a narrow chute (after I cleared one) along the left bank just above a small cabin on the RB. Good current to begin with through repeated bends then broadens, straightens and slows just as you near extensive property development along LB, a signal that takeout is just a little farther. It's possible you *may* see a few fishermen in small motorboats when they're biting (I saw none in Mid May) but gosh it would sure be tough to motor a boat past all those snags up river! Put-in at STH 76 is very hazardous due to no shoulder to pull over on and hell-bent traffic flying around bend just above bridge. Suggest station a car up the road with hazard lights flashing and person holding a "Caution, Canoe Loading" sign for a group put-in.

*Author's note:* The strongly motivating impetus to always be trying new waters to explore is driven by the fact that every once in a while you find a really nice one and it is just a very rewarding, joyful and satisfying feeling.

*Stream:* **Fisher River**

Atlas & Gaz: 73, C8

Put-in: 310th St Bridge

Take out: 260th St Bridge

Travel Time: 2-3 Hr

Take Out: 240th St Bridge

Travel Time: 4-5 Hr

Features: An adventurous and hardy trip through an isolated, large section of very dense woods and thick brush that provides an island of good wildlife habitat in a northern agricultural area. Songbirds very abundant, wading deer common, eagle. Very quiet and peaceful, strong ambiance of seclusion and solitude. Somewhat spooky character to all the craggy snags and deadfalls of large maples. Interesting variation of river and woods environment. No cabins along the river except at each bridge. Town Park at take-out.

Cautions, Hazards: Very difficult and rugged trip! Logjams in slow, deep water and dense boulder gardens in fast, shallow water. Begins narrow, slow and deep with abrupt, steep, muddy banks with overhanging maples. Dead falls common! - about a dozen to negotiate, not too hard to carry around along shore or sneak through a narrow opening or float under (risky!) an arched log. Then gets much better for awhile, broad and roomy, no more deadfalls to 260th St bridge and none afterwards. After 260 bridge, nice for a while then a very long stretch of continuous, alternating dense boulder gardens and light rapids with brief respite through pools to catch your breath. More Grade I-II bouldery riffles/rapids to STH 27 bridge(no access here). After 27 bridge easy paddling for a while then another long series of dense boulder gardens in fast water. Great fishing or swimming hole below drop of last rapids at log "cabin" before final take-out. Take out LB, above start of fast boulder garden that drops under bridge. Need a small, tough, plastic, keelless canoe that is easy to lift up and over logs and easy to maneuver between boulders in dense rock gardens and float above rocks. Don't try it if the water is too low unless you are a glutton for punishment or you just can't let it go. Should be in very good physical condition or at least willing to give extreme effort! Avoid full size and aluminum canoes for this trip. [Upper section looked too shallow (and small) from the several bridges above this section to give it a try in such low water conditions, late May]

*Author's note:* This may be a good trip to try if you are into redemptive self punishment, extreme sports like ESPN X Games or are training to become an elite special forces commando and need to get in shape. Your reward is a feeling of accomplishment that you did it and also gratitude that no one saw you struggling so laboriously and tortured you with comments and questions designed to make you doubt your sanity and intelligence.



*Stream:* **JumpRiver, North Fork**

Atlas & Gaz: 87, D5

Put-in: Spring Creek Flowage via Pioneer Rd to dead end lot

Take out: Old CTH 8 Bridge via Riverview Rd

Travel Time: 3-4 Hr

Features: Great wilderness quality trip through a lovely, peaceful, unspoiled section of rugged natural beauty and good wildlife habitat. Passes through Spring Creek State Wildlife Area. Beautiful northwoods scenery of maples, birch, a few large pines, stands of spruce. Songbirds abundant; wading deer, eagle, bear, common, possibly wolves also. Take some time to explore SCSWA a little. Saw a large bear wandering around in here.

Cautions, Hazards: Carry several hundred feet from lot to slide boat in on flowage then paddle across to outlet at culvert and carry across trail to rocky landing where stream begins. Narrow and shallow but easily passable, a couple light beaver dams, no deadfalls. Alder-lined banks with woods behind. Flow volume much improved after creek entrance on right. Snowmobile trail just above farm at STH 8. Below 8, channel broad and deep briefly then becomes very rocky through long, dense, shallow boulder beds; bumping, scraping, wading in low water. This rocky section is avoidable by taking out at the defunct unnamed primitive road spur along STH 8 just west of the 8 bridge which has very poor access. Too narrow at STH 13, no access from Cranberry Rd. Need good water levels and a small, maneuverable, shallow draft canoe or kayak.

*Author's note:* It is always a good idea to get started in the morning as early as you can when you're trying to figure out where to put your canoe in on an unfamiliar route. Even though it might look like a real cinch from the map to start at such and such a point, when you get there it might turn out to be completely wrong. Then you may have to really scramble around by car to find an alternate spot, often while precious time is weaning away. It can be somewhat nerve wracking - remember the opening scene in Deliverance driving around like mad in the backwoods trying to find the put-in? On this trip I struck out first at the highway bridge where the channel was too narrow and brushy. Then I tried to find an access trail from the forest road farther downstream in the state wildlife area - no luck there either! Finally I found a road that leads along the edge of the flowage farther down and was able to carry in and bust through some brush to open water. Fortunately I soon found the hidden outlet not visible from shore and was on my way to another great adventure! Thanks to my 6am start time I had plenty of time left to enjoy my trip after several hours of difficulty finding a put-in.

*Stream:* **Jump River, north fork**

*Atlas & Gaz:* 87, D5

*Put-in:* Old STH 8 bridge via Riverview dead end road

*Take out:* CTH I Bridge

*Travel Time:* 4-6 Hr

*Features:* An adventurous, secluded and scenic long trip through miles of unspoiled rugged, dense northwoods environment with excellent wilderness character. Outstanding wildlife habitat for northern species. Songbirds abundant, deer wading in shallows common, good bear population in area, wolves possibly present. Maples, birch, alder, spruce, a few hemlock, a few large pines. Several cabins first mile or two then none for several miles, 3 or 4 more until takeout. A great fast trip in high water!

*Cautions, Hazards:* When water is low expect a lot of wading through a great many rocky, dense boulder gardens, riffles, light rapids. No log jams, 3 or 4 beaver dams, no major rapids. A hanging line and a wire to duck under shortly after put-in. Better volume and depth last couple miles but also more challenging boulder beds and riffles/rapids. A real long way to go so make sure water levels are good and use a small, tough plastic canoe with shallow draft or kayak easy to fit in between boulders. A tandem canoe would make it awful tough to get past all the boulders! Wear sturdy wading boots. No other access until takeout, prepare appropriately for long day trip. Don't try this trip unless water is high enough to float you above the rocks!

*Author's note:* When you hide your shuttle bike locked to a tree in the woods, always remember to hide it good but not so good you that you can't find it yourself, I hate when that happens! A couple of times I thought for sure it had been stolen when I just couldn't seem to find it or remember where exactly I had left it or to what tree I had locked it. Following several exasperating attempts to locate it that failed, I looked again and sure enough there it was after all! It turned out I was wrong and my faith in humanity restored.

*Bonus notes:* Make sure you have a flashlight with you if it is going to be dark by the time you get back to your bike. It can be awful hard to find it in the woods without one and harder still to read the combination on the lock (Especially when the skeeters are swarming and you forgot the bug spray!). Avoid stashing your bike in wet spots if you're not still going to be wearing boots on the shuttle back. Most of these trips are wet and rugged and wearing hip boots makes it a lot more bearable. So pack some tennies in your canoe pack to avoid looking like a fool while riding your bike down the highway in hip boots back to your car unless of course you think that it's a good and manly look. Peddling is much easier in tennies though.



*Stream:* **Jump River, south fork**

Atlas & Gaz: 87, D6

Put-in: Mail Route Rd Bridge

Take out: Prentice Dam/Bt Ldg

Travel Time: 3Hr

Features: Adventurous and scenic trip of high wilderness-like quality through large unspoiled natural area of good wildlife habitat. Combination of marsh and northwoods of maple, spruce, a few large pines. Warblers and songbirds up close in alders. Eagle, deer, bear, common.

Cautions, Hazards: Begins shallow, narrow and rocky with alder banks. Just one deadfall and two easy beaver dams. Many shallow boulder gardens, gentle current, no rapids or log jams. No cabins for two or three miles then several homes along RB at town road. Should be run during high water conditions to avoid dragging and scraping over rocks, wading. No public access above put-in due to dead end private roads, probably is too small and clogged up there anyway for good paddling.

*Author's note:* What it comes down to is that after all the scouting you can do from whatever access is available ... the only way to know for sure if a small river or stream is runnable is to run it! When it works out good, your whole being is rewarded with an intense feeling of euphoria.

*Stream:* **Marengo River**

Atlas & Gaz: 95, A6

Put-in: River Rd Bridge

Take-out: Government Rd Bridge

Travel Time: 4 - 5 Hr

Features: Delightful, relaxing, intimate trip through an isolated section of unspoiled, quiet, deep and dense woods and thick brush of a jungle-like nature. Gorgeous, pure sand bottom perfect for barefoot wading. Occasional sand bars inviting for relaxation. Canopy of basswoods, beeches, birch, some spruce, maple provides shade along shore. Several species of larger turtles, eagle, songbirds. Water color is coffee with cream but very clean looking and clear in shallow water. Just one cabin and a couple deer stands plus a farm at the 13 bridge and the take-out. Miles of undeveloped northern hardwood forest gives a sense of traveling through a wilderness.

\* Be sure to take time to visit some nearby attractions of exceptional natural beauty such as Copper Falls State Park; the North Country Trail - see the roadside exhibit and hike up to the lookout over the ancient Penokee Range just west of Mellen on CTH GG; St Peter's Dome with spectacular views stretching to Lake Superior and for a nice quiet paddle on a serene wilderness lake, visit Lake Caroline a few miles southeast of Mellen.

Cautions, Hazards: Difficult but unbothered access at put-in - slide boat down 30 ft steep brushy slope with rope. Small channel but sufficient for passage. Access at Block Rd bridge just a bit downstream is even harder plus has a residence. Shortly below the STH 13 bridge is a RR bridge then a snowmobile trail bridge. A few short, easy carries along sandy banks around downed logs. A few downed spruce and birch below HWY 13 to negotiate a path thru. Most of the way your paddle will probably bump bottom due to shallowness of channel but still easy to make steady progress due to sandy bottom and lack of boulders and rocks. Very floatable, no real dragging or walking necessary with normal water levels. Difficult takeout at Govt Rd bridge up steep 50 ft rocky slope but next access is many miles downstream at Elm Hoist Rd bridge in the Bad River Reservation. Mosquitos and deer flies are bad in season, take precautions including head net and repellent, keep your skin covered. You may also want to wear paddler's gloves to protect the back of your hand from fly bites. Very dense brush along shore uninviting to explore.

Author's note: It is necessary to get permission from the Bad River Tribal Office to paddle through the Reservation if you want to continue on down past the Government Rd Bridge. This is a very pristine area and the tribe is sensitive to any intrusion so take heed.

\* After scouting the nearby Brunswiler River for a trip through some wild country above I would not recommend it due to its narrowness and reports from locals of bad problems with dead falls.



*Stream:* **New Wood River**

Atlas & Gaz: 76, B1

Put-in: Whiskey Bill Rd

Take out: CTH E Bridge #1

Travel Time: 2 Hr

Take out: CTH E Bridge #2

Travel Time: 4 - 6 Hr

Features: Wilderness quality stream that begins in remote region of Lincoln Co. and passes through old growth pine forest of New Wood State Wildlife Area. Tributary of Wisconsin River. Borders section of IAT that has outstanding wilderness quality hiking, trailhead nearby.

Properties with houses appear last several miles as approach second Hwy E bridge. Deer common, songbirds plentiful, eagles, good habitat also for bear and wolves nearby.

Cautions, Hazards: Narrow and brushy in most upper section with occasional beaver dams to lift boat over. Shallow and bouldery in this part also. Should be attempted only when water levels are high such as in early spring. Best to use a small maneuverable craft to negotiate hazards. Must drag canoe through the obscure, narrow brush opening at the put-in. Access road becomes very rutty above. Flow and volume increases in lower section for easier paddling. No rapids other than brief rocky swifts.

*Author's note:* Actually I ran this trip about 7 or 8 years ago and so I don't have any fresh thoughts on it other than I took the time to drive back to the put-in and take-out to refresh my memory a little. ( wow, did I really squeeze my canoe in through that thick brush to get started??!) I do remember racing to the takeout to beat one willy dilly of a scary looking black sky that was forming but mercifully dissipated just as I coasted my bike up to ever faithful Betsy(my truck). Now that I think of it I also remember two little Huck Finn type rascals fishing from the bridge as I paddled under it and exchanged friendly fishing- type banter.

*Stream:* **Pine River, Waushara County**

Atlas & Gaz: 53,C7

Put-in: Apache Rd bridge

Take out: CTH A bridge

Travel Time: 2-3hr

Features: Wonderful, short trip along an intimate, winding, clean stream lined with upland banks of mature hardwoods with a few scattered pines through a quiet state fishery area. Excellent songbird habitat. Very limited development along the shore other than a few rustic cabins and foot bridges. Good opportunity to see trout and suckers in the clear water below. You can try your luck in some of the deep holes in the bends that go black.

Cautions, Hazards: No fast water, just gentle, easy current. Occasional downed branches to lift your boat over or carry around along the grassy shore. There are several low foot bridges to negotiate. Don't risk a tragedy by trying to float under one that is too low, especially if it also has a quickening current along the pilings - you could possibly get stuck and drown if you flip! On a Saturday morning in spring and summer expect to regularly encounter wading fishermen. So be polite and ask for permission to pass if you see them working a spot - try to avoid fish holding areas nearby so you don't spook away their quarry.

*Author's note:* Many thanks to the local chapter of Trout Unlimited for their fine efforts to help restore the upper Pine River to help improve its trout-holding habitat. I happened to pass by a work crew engaged in some backbreaking work while I was paddling down and was very impressed with their commitment. One of these days I'm going to join one of their work crews and pitch in on a project somewhere! TU is a great organization that does a gosh awful lot to benefit a great many trout streams here in Wisconsin and across the whole USA, so please give them your full support!

Please note that the next section from Saxeville to Pine River is plagued with an abundance of troublesome log jams and an excess of cabins and footbridges plus a long shallow, mucky backup above the dam at the takeout.



*Stream:* **Pine River**, Waushara County, Poy Sippi to Lake Poygan

Atlas & Gaz: 54, D1

Put-in: below dam in Poy Sippi at apartment complex lot along STH 49

Take out: Boat Landing on Lake Poygan via Badger Road

Travel Time: 3 - 4 hr

Features: A hidden gem! An enchanting, and adventurous, secluded trip through an isolated, lightly traveled wild area, mostly inaccessible by foot. This is a great opportunity to visit up close the extensive Poygan Marsh State Wildlife Area. There appear to be four different sections to the trip, thus providing a changing scenery and a varied experience in nature observation. The first section is a mature hardwood forest with some large maples, willows, beech, basswood and a wonderfully abundant songbird population. Common were wood thrushes and grosbeaks, among others, plus a bald eagle. Bounding deer along the quiet wooded shore were frequent encounters. The water is clean-looking, the channel broad and shallow, 1 -2' deep and the current helpful. The next section is a brief but pleasant view along a farm field filled with the delightful sounds of bobolinks, meadowlarks and goldfinches. The following section is a wet meadow lined with banks of lush, green grass rustling in the breeze and filled with the sweet sounds of sedge wrens, swamp sparrows and yellowthroats.

Next, is the broadening of the channel at the mouth where it enters the lake. Here you will find an abundance of sandhill cranes along the shore and some even wading in the shallow river bottom. Also present are some terns that may harass you in the nesting season and entertain you with their spectacular dives for small fish. Nearby are several nesting platforms for them. Once into the waters of vast Lake Poygan, if you are lucky as was I, you may perhaps see a large splash from a breaching sturgeon - yes sturgeon!

Along the entire way to the lake, I saw nary a single house or cabin, just a couple rustic farmer's foot bridges and deer stands, plus one pastoral farm in the distance with a few cattle lowing. Along the shore of the lake to the takeout 2 mi to the left is a shore entirely wild and excellent for crane habitat.

Cautions, Hazards: There are a lot of fallen branches and some large trees down but mercifully, due to the broad channel, there is in all cases a way to find a path around them with skillful maneuvering. A few diversions around islands causing the way to narrow for just a bit. A few footbridges, high enough to easily pass under. The shallow depth at times may slow travel and may possibly require a brief walk at the mouth, but the bottom is sandy. The main concern by far on this trip is the paddle along the shore of Lake Poygan for about 2 miles to the left or NW to the boat landing on Badger Road. Because of that I would recommend this trip be done in tandem so you have a partner to help you paddle to the takeout if the wind picks up. DO NOT try this trip during windy or stormy weather! Huge waves may kick up! It would truly be a shame for something tragic to happen while traversing the lake section after completing such a wonderful river section. The lake shore is heavily wooded and the branches extend out far from shore making it very difficult to hug the bank while paddling. Fortunately, the depth is shallow enough that you could probably walk your boat out from shore if you absolutely had to. In any case, wait for a calm forecast to do this trip.

*Author's note:* For three years I planned to do this trip in spring. Each time I had to cancel due to bad weather! It sure feels good to finally get it done and what a fine final addition to my book! May your paddling be always peaceful and joyful as mine.

*Stream:* **Spirit River**

Atlas & Gaz: 76, A1

Put-in: CTH T Bridge

Take out: CTH O Bridge

Travel Time: 4 Hr

Features: Gentle, intimate, quiet stream with excellent wilderness like atmosphere along with feeling of seclusion and some very picturesque north woods scenery uninterrupted by any development for several miles or more. Deep woods of spruce, cedar and occasional large pines along either bank in moving section followed by quiet, undisturbed backwaters of hardwoods section of flowage. Deer and eagle sightings common, otters present, warblers, songbirds. Bear and wolf habitat. Very scenic Spirit Falls nearby with rapids above and below, viewable from shore along town road. Joins Wisconsin River System.

Cautions, Hazards: Too shallow for good canoeing when water levels are not high. Slow and bouldery with a few light riffles but no rapids below put-in at Hwy T. No logjams or beaver dams to prevent passage. Spirit Falls is a class III drop suitable only for advanced paddlers in properly equipped boats during early season high water. Very rocky class II rapids above and below falls, portage left bank along road. Fishermen in motorboats common as you near the takeout at the Hwy O bridge.

*Author's note:* If I ever see you fishing here as I paddle past on Opening Day I won't be happy! Don't believe the lies about good fishing here! My brother lives on this lake so give me a break and fish somewhere else while I guide my nephew. I hear they're biting below the Tomahawk Dam.( go try there)



*Stream:* **Willow Creek**

Atlas & Gaz: 54, D1

Put-in: CTH D bridge, the first one south of Poy Sippi

Take out: CTH D bridge, the second one south of Poy Sippi, via Pumpkinseed Creek

Travel Time: 2 hr

Features: Great opportunity to get a close up look at the extensive Poygan Marsh State Wildlife Area, which is not really open to hiking. (See the trip description for Pine River, Waushara Co. Poy Sippi to Lake Poygan).

A slow, easy, serene paddle down a shallow channel, broad at times, with little sign of any current along shores of cattails and high marsh grass populated by marsh wrens, sedge wrens and cranes. The bottom is black and mucky. There is no development along the way. A brief stretch of lake travel along a somewhat protected shore of Lake Poygan. Cranes can be seen and heard nearby. The banks along Pumpkinseed Creek just up from it's mouth are filled with truly a sublime cacophony of marsh wren calls not easily found in such a large choir elsewhere. There is a great chance here to see one of these secretive creatures perched on a stem.

Cautions, Hazards: Exposure to wind along the marsh-lined broad sections of the channel. Little sign of any current can sometimes make navigation downstream or upstream a little confusing. No log jams or foot bridges to negotiate. You will have to paddle a short distance of just about a mile or less along the shore of mighty Lake Poygan to get to Pumpkinseed Creek, your corridor to follow back up to Hwy D, a short 3 mi shuttle from your put-in. You can scout out the lake section from the boat landing at the resort just to the SE of where Pumpkinseed Creek enters at it's mouth. DO NOT try this trip in rough weather as you may have to fight some large waves on the lake portion! Luckily, it would be easy to walk your boat along the lake shore if you had to. You will probably encounter a few fishermen in motorboats in either of these 2 creeks. You will pass a boat landing on Willow Creek on the way to the lake. On the way up Pumpkinseed Creek to the takeout there are two dead end backwaters on the right. One ends in a dense residential area and the other in a farm. You can be deceptively drawn in this way by mistake if you're not careful. (Guess how I know!) So just stay to the left and in the broad channel past this part and you're not long at all for the takeout. Please note that this trip is a continuation of the same Willow Creek described in the first section of this book.

*Author's note:* To the guy in the bass boat I passed on Willow Creek heading down to the lake who ominously warned me of "4 footers" out on the lake when I told him of my route up Pumpkinseed Creek, in response to his interrogation. Yes, well maybe 2 miles from shore in the middle of the lake there were four footers, but because I had just scouted the lake from the boat landing along my route and of course because of my expertise in judging wave height from wind-produced tree top movement, I expected only a slight chop on the lake portion of my route when I got there on this breezy Sunday afternoon and fortunately I was right. Piece of cake! I would hate to be the unlucky soul who guessed wrong though! Maybe I should play it safe and take up golf or tennis? Hmm .... well no, but I do need to spend more time staying home and studying classical guitar now that this book is completed and most of my Wisconsin adventures as well. Or maybe I can find some exciting trips along the back roads up in Canada! Or both! Yes Both!

*Stream:* **Willow River**

Atlas & Gaz: 70, D4

Put-in: New Richmond Nature Park, STH 64 bridge, carry in about 300' from lot along nature trail

Take-out: 100th St bridge

Travel Time: 2-3 Hr

Take-out: 140th St bridge, Boardman

Travel Time: 3 - 4 Hr

Take-out: CTH A

Travel Time: 5 Hr

Features: A very difficult and strenuous trip that is rewarded by passage through a very lovely, lightly impacted lush natural area of very good wildlife habitat of thick woods and brush isolated by the surrounding agricultural countryside and likely rarely visited by others, especially by boat! Mildly silty water color. Songbirds very abundant, wading deer common, no cabins down to 100th St bridge. Quiet, peaceful, reflective, parallels the park nature trail briefly. Spend an hour hiking the trail.

*Author's note:* This section would be an absolutely wonderful water trail IF a local volunteer group could be organized to clear it and maintain it. They do it for hiking trails, don't they?

Cautions, Hazards: Most upper section severely plagued with deadfalls of maples, etc. Numerous logjams that require a carry around. Time after time you will have to find a way to get past these seemingly endless obstacles, either haul your boat around, over or squeeze your way through. You should be in very fit physical shape to attempt this section! Strongly advise use of a small, light, keeless, plastic boat suitable for this purpose to ease the difficulty and make it much more manageable. Shore is of very high grass but user friendly for dragging your boat around and sliding back in below snag. Shortly after the first batch of jams, a green farm pasture appears LB and going is easy for a short while along treeless banks of high grass so you can catch your breath for the next section of more of the same log jams and deadfalls. Take heart, there is clear sailing after you near the 100th St bridge, no more portages or carry arounds, just a few minor ones to negotiate a path thru. Easy paddling from Boardman to CTH A, poor access here. No further obstacles, just a few invisible boulders that may snag you in low water.

Take-out: CTH I bridge

Travel Time: 5 Hr

Features: A special opportunity to experience first hand the joy of paddling a restored rapids that was temporarily drowned by an ill-advised dam, now removed. This former flowage section is now a fast moving rocky stream with some challenging whitewater and a popular, top notch trout stream. It will take you through a very attractive natural wooded section of the Willow River State Wildlife Area, absent in development by any cabins. Great wildlife habitat for songbirds, game, eagle, deer, etc., mostly hardwoods, a few evergreens also.

Cautions, Hazards: Very hazardous access at CTH E bridge just above rapids due to very high, steep, rocky banks and busy highway traffic with no shoulder. Recommend put in at CTH A or in Boardman to run this lower WW section. Fast water begins shortly below CTH E bridge and increases soon to several pitches of some good grade I and grade II rocky rapids that require good paddling skills and not too big of a boat. Connecting stretches of shallow riffles and fast water continues down to I bridge. Shore fishermen very common as approach take-out.

*Author's note:* As poor luck would have it I had neither a state park admission sticker or funds to purchase one so I couldn't continue on to the next take-out in Willow River State Park. I'm guessing that short final section through the park area was more of the same of shallow rocky swifts along pretty woods full of shore fishermen and not much if any WW.





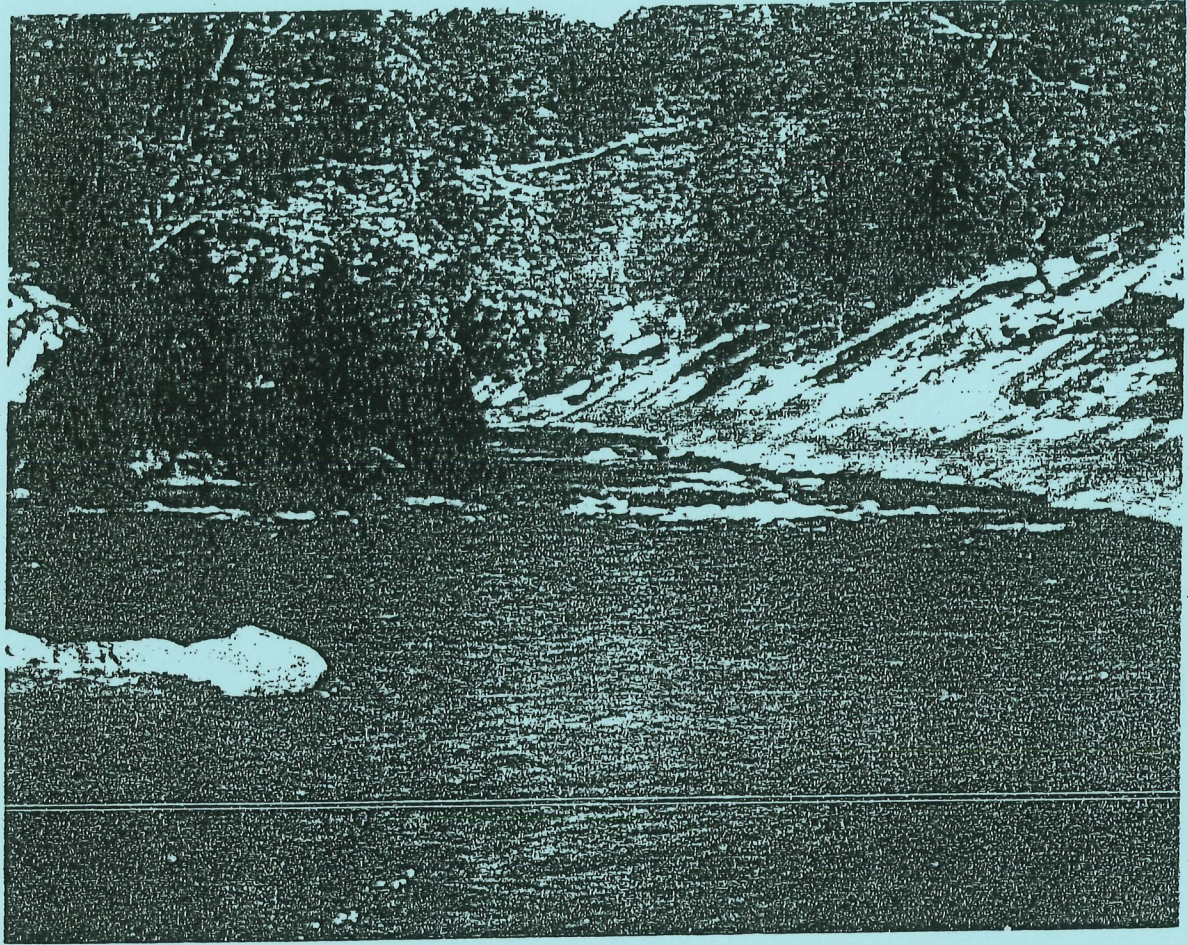
River Alliance of Wisconsin



[www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org)

Everyone  
deserves  
healthy rivers







There is adventure awaiting you on Wisconsin's small rivers! The current beckons you to come and explore each new bend in the river which unravels a new revelation of beauty, wonder and excitement. You may paddle in quiet, undisturbed reflection on these hidden, smaller intimate streams which have the solitude you are searching for away from the often crowded, popular larger rivers that appeal to commercial outfitters and revelers. Their difficulty in passage may sometimes test your patience, will and endurance yet will likely win your heart and hopefully and most importantly your loyal stewardship as well!

Small River Canoe Adventures of Wisconsin provides you with specific details about where to put in and take out on over forty streams carefully selected across Wisconsin for their scenic and secluded wilderness-like qualities. Approximate travel times are listed to aid in planning everything from short day trips to multi-day ones on longer-running rivers broken down into convenient sections. Also given is a brief general description of what features and conditions to expect but not so much that you are robbed of the pleasure of discovering for yourself what encounters lie ahead by noting painstakingly every nook and cranny along the way.

All of the mentioned streams are well mapped by the Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer and appropriate sections of it are given for each so that finding your route quickly is a snap. The rivers are listed on a page and grouped by region plus divided into categories of either whitewater or quietwater so river runners can easily select trips according to their proximity, constraints of paddling skills or particular preferences. Additionally, several trips are described that combine a small river emptying into a well-known larger one for a prolonged journey that offers the best of both worlds!

