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Wacissa River Canoe Trip - Thursday, May 20, 2010

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Civic Center parking lot (Registration is at Double Tree Hotel)..

Carpool caravan will depart for the Wacissa River county park promptly at **7:45 a.m.**

Or arrive on your own—

Start time at field trip location: 8:30 a.m.. Meet at **Wacissa River county park** near the headwaters of the Wacissa River, about 19 miles southeast of Tallahassee, south of the small town of Wacissa. **(see map below)**

End Time: 3:30p.m.

Degree of Difficulty: Hard **Handicap access:** no

Guide:, Matt Phillips, FWC Invasive Plant Biologist Contact info: MattV.Phillips@MyFWC.com

Local Expert: Michael Hill, FWC Biologist, Contact info: Michael.Hill@myfwc.com

Description: The Wacissa River is a shallow, spring-fed river located in Jefferson County, Florida. The headwaters is comprised of 21 individual springs, with Blue Springs being the largest. Big Blue is about sixty feet deep and surrounded by majestic bald cypress and swamp hardwoods. The main river run is easily followed and paddled, however, the side channels are beautifully woven through strands of southern wild rice canopied by bay and tupelo trees and make for an adventurous excursion. We will explore Big Blue, returning to the main channel to explore as far as Cedar Island, before heading back to our starting point, a 6-7 mile round trip. The Wacissa River is a birder's paradise with a almost guaranteed look at the elusive limpkin. Other interesting birds likely to be encountered are the bald eagle, nesting on Cypress Island, osprey and prothonotary warbler. Although the river is infested with the invasive exotic plant, hydrilla in places, it still has much native aquatic vegetation and is home to many hungry Suwanee bass, turtles, and other wildlife.

Entrance is free

DON'T FORGET: Water, sun screen, hat. Please place optional binoculars & cameras in water proof bags. Light, long-sleeved shirt and pants are recommended to protect against biting insects. You will likely get wet or at the minimum, muddy, depending on recent rainfall – wear closed toe shoes or flip flops

Nearest Restrooms: There are porta-potties at the canoe launch site.

Nearest gas station if remote: town of Wacissa.

Cell phone reception: uncertain

Contact number for the day of the event: Trip leader Matt Phillips' (850) 245-2831

Park Entrance: Take SR27 southeast of Tallahassee to SR 59; turn right (south) on CR 59 through the small town of Wacissa. Where SR 59 turns sharply right, continue south to the

end of the road at the county park (unpaved parking area) on the Wacissa River.

GPS: -83.991259 30.340350

See attached map

Map:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=county+park+wacissa+River+fl&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=50.02446,78.837891&ie=UTF8&hq=county+park+wacissa+River&hnear=Florida&ll=30.40486,-84.100685&sfn=0.414548,0.615921&t=h&z=11