

2003-04-28 NE CREEK

This creek originates in Hofmann State Forest near the junction of Troublesome Road and NE Ditch Road.

The first public road bridge over it is State Road # 1327. Kellum Loop Road about 2.2 miles north of Kellum. Route 17 is the next bridge and then Piney Green Road, # 1408.

Piney Green is where we launched our boats for today's paddle. We put in on the downstream side between the two bridges on the right side of the east bridge. We parked on the left side downstream off the road. ( Heavy traffic and limited parking.)

We ran the shuttle to Northeast Creek park off Route 24. The shortest way is to go Country Club Road and Western Boulevard to Route 24.

As soon as we were on the water ( at 10:00) we entered a different world. The trees were tall and dense and provided a shady canopy. We encountered a few houses off through the trees on high ground, but mostly it was hardwood swamps. We saw an owl and scared up a gathering of deer.

We came upon a large beaver lodge (at 10:45). Shortly thereafter we went over what we now know was a very large beaver dam which stopped our upstream trip on Feb 14. (see photo # 549).

This time going downstream there was only a small ripple going over the dam. We glided over it with ease. The water was practically the same height above and below the dam. There is nothing like high water when paddling! (New River Gauge was at 3.70 feet).

We came to our lunch stop at 11:15. Per Cal's GPS this was 1.6 miles from Piney Green. This is a lovely place in the pines with a green lake adjacent. My fellow paddlers treated me to a chorus of "Happy Birthday To You" and cup cakes and candles.

At 12.10 we left our lunch stop party and in a short while we came to the junction of Northeast Creek and Little Northeast Creek. Many ospreys in this area with baby ospreys in their nests. Joanne saw an alligator and a big one! He wouldn't have anything to do with her.

We paddled up Little Northeast Creek and turned up Poplar Creek as far as we could go. Blowdowns stopped us. We could hear the Piney Green Road traffic. It would be nice if this stream were cleared to Piney Green.

It was a two mile round trip from the junction of Northeast and Little

Northeast to where we turned around on Poplar.

We got to the ramp at Northeast Creek park at 2:00. Overall, this was a short paddle and surprised us all. It was also very interesting, pretty, wild and wonderful; all right here in Jacksonville!

Pictures:



Elmer, The White Oak River Trash Man!!

