

## **Rainbow River Paddle Trip Report – March 14<sup>th</sup>**

On March 14th, six members and four guests enjoyed a scenic paddle on the Rainbow River. Some participants started the day with breakfast at Beacon Woods Café, setting the tone for an enjoyable outing. By 10:00 AM, the group gathered at KP Hole Park in Dunnellon, where each person paid a \$7.00 entrance fee. Two members camped at the nearby Shangri-La State Park Campground.

Our planned take-out point was Blue Run of Dunnellon Park. However, the main parking lot there was completely full. Luckily, we discovered that the park offers overflow parking at the San Jose Blvd Trailhead. One car was parked there, and we found the overflow lot had plenty of space.

Two members opted to rent kayaks from Rainbow River Kayak Adventures. The rental service included a convenient shuttle back to their car. They noted that the staff was very accommodating. While this option is convenient, it costs approximately \$40 per person for four hours.

The weather was absolutely perfect for paddling, and the river was alive with wildlife. We spotted otters, Anhingas, turtles, and a variety of birds, though we didn't encounter any alligators on this trip.

After wrapping up the paddle and retrieving the boats, the group headed to Swampy's for a late lunch. Swampy's, a popular spot near Blue Run Park, was bustling due to the beautiful weather. Even at 1:30 PM, the wait for a table was lengthy. Once seated, though, everyone enjoyed excellent food and service.

*Jim Wasson*

Kayak Director