

HBYC Kayak Expedition on the Withlacoochee River Nobleton, Florida April 6, 2024

On April 8th, ten members of HBYC, accompanied by a guest, embarked on a memorable kayak journey along the picturesque Withlacoochee River in Nobleton, Florida. Each participant paddled their own single kayak, adding to the sense of adventure.

Prior to our expedition, some of us convened at the Beacon Woods Café in Hudson for a nourishing breakfast. From there, we made our way to the Hog Island Recreational Area. One enthusiastic member had even spent the previous night camping at the Hog Island campground, eagerly anticipating the day's adventure.

Upon arrival at the Hog Island boat ramp, we unloaded our kayaks and then drove our cars to Nobleton Wayside Park, which also boasted a convenient boat ramp. The weather greeted us with mild temperatures in the mid-70s, accompanied by a gentle breeze. Despite the lack of a strong current, the river promised a serene and enjoyable paddle.

Our journey commenced amidst the tranquility of the wilderness, surrounded by the majestic cypress woods. Along the way, we were fortunate to hear and catch sight of two Limpkins, adding to the natural charm of our experience. Approximately one and a half miles into our paddle, we encountered a significant obstacle—a large fallen tree blocking the entire river. With some teamwork and maneuvering, we successfully navigated around the obstruction through a brief bypass along the shoreline, opting not to spend time searching for an alternate water route.



As we approached the takeout point at Wayside Park, the landscape gradually transitioned to include more riverside homes, yet wildlife remained abundant, providing moments of wonder and delight. My GPS recorded our paddle distance at 4 miles, from our starting point at Hog Island to our conclusion at Wayside Park.

After loading up our kayaks, the majority of the group reconvened for a well-deserved late lunch at El Sol De Mexico restaurant in Brooksville, where we were joined by three additional members, bringing a satisfying end to our day of exploration and camaraderie.

Mitch Lairmore
Kayak Director