

## *Exploring the Rainbow River: HBYC's Kayak Expedition*



On May 10th, a dozen adventurers from HBYC set out on an unforgettable kayak excursion along the enchanting Rainbow River in Dunnellon, Florida. Each member navigated their own single kayak, creating a personalized journey through nature's wonderland. Originally planned for Saturday, May 11th, we rescheduled to avoid the weekend rush, a decision that paid off as we effortlessly secured parking at the launch site.

Prior to our aquatic odyssey, we gathered at the Beacon Woods Café in Hudson for a hearty breakfast, fueling ourselves for the day ahead. From there, we ventured to KP Hole County Park in Dunnellon, where a nominal \$7 entrance fee granted us access to embark on our river adventure.



experience.

Setting off, we paddled against the gentle 1.2 knot current, making our way upstream toward the captivating Rainbow Springs State Park, a scenic 1.5-mile journey to the head spring. At the state park, we paused to rejuvenate before commencing our return paddle to the launch site. Along the way, we were treated to sights of various wildlife, including turtles, limpkin, and a petite alligator, adding to the allure of the



Mother Nature graced us with near-perfect weather — partly cloudy skies, temperatures hovering in the balmy low 80s, and a refreshing breeze. The river's crystal-clear waters offered glimpses of its vibrant aquatic inhabitants, with fish and turtles gliding beneath our kayaks.



As our adventure came to a close, we loaded up our kayaks and reconvened at Swampy's Grill in Dunnellon, exchanging stories and laughter over well-deserved refreshments, capping off a day filled with camaraderie and natural splendor.

*Mitch Lairmore*

Kayak Director