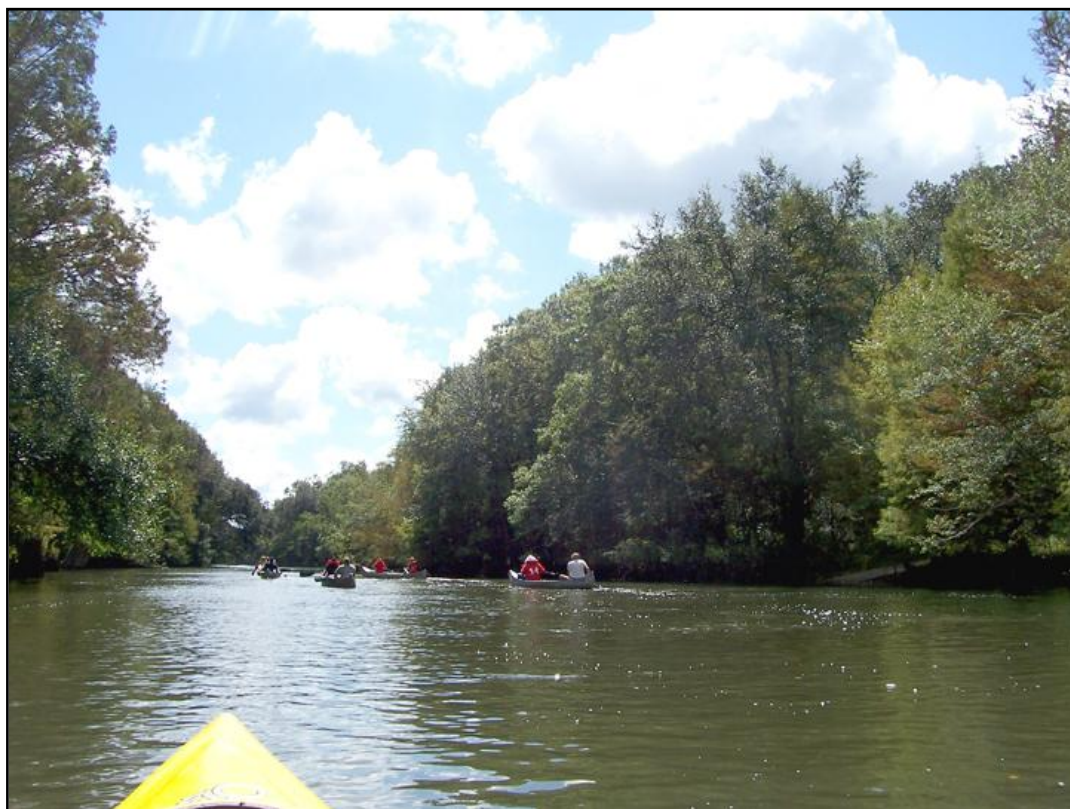


Nature's Beauty Dazzles Canoe Trip Adventurers



Bainbridge College Canoe & Kayak Club members circle cypress stumps as they travel Spring Creek on a Fall Semester 2009 trek. Below is a view as they go down river.



Below, ready for their adventure to Spring Creek are (left-right) club co-sponsor David Sarrette, Herman Peterson, Richard Lawrence, Shendora Butler, Melissa Heard, John Provence, Tory Cannon, Emily Ray, Elaine Smith, Caleb Adkins, LePlacia Herring, Bobby Grubbs, Doug Harris, and club co-sponsor Dr. Eric Dueno. Other trips during the 2009-2010 academic year took adventurous students to Silver Lake and Wakulla River in Florida.



With the most participants at that time, the Bainbridge College Canoe and Kayak Club set out for Spring Creek on a hot but beautiful morning to enjoy the sights along the water. Club co-sponsors Dr. Eric Dueno and David Sarrette led the groups. The Spring Creek trip rivaled the beauty of scenery and animals that were seen during the first trip. That inaugural adventure for the academic year was declared by Sarrette as one of the best ever.

“The wildlife encounter we experienced was awesome,” Sarrette said. “After putting in we came across a family of manatees lying on the bottom of the 4-foot deep crystal clear water. None of the students had ever seen this endangered species. They were all amazed.”

Sarrette said that the two biggest manatees were as large as their canoes. During the leisurely time they took to observe the manatees, the baby approached Sarrette’s kayak and nudged its head against the kayak several times.

The adventurous group looked forward to their turn at Silver Lake, having heard the previous year’s group described that experience as “laid back” and “amazing.” At Silver Lake, Bainbridge College students have seen ospreys and other birds and fish that flipped out of the water, while the students stayed alert to observe alligators and avoid hornets’ nests hanging in the trees. They also commented how amazing it was to be gliding over trees on Silver Lake, which was created on flooded land.